

Gal 9 E d

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BIRDS.

FROM THE FRENCH OF THE
COUNT DE BUFFON.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS;
AND A
PREFACE, NOTES, AND ADDITIONS,
BY THE TRANSLATOR.

IN NINE VOLUMES.

VOL. V.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR A. STRAHAN, AND T. CADELL IN THE STRAND;
AND J. MURRAY, N^o 32, FLEET-STREET.

MDCCXCIII.



C O N T E N T S

O F T H E

F I F T H V O L U M E.

	Page
<i>THE Sky-Lark</i>	1
<i>VARIETIES of the Sky-Lark</i>	18
1. The White Sky-Lark	ib.
2. The Black Sky-Lark	20
 <i>The Rufous-Backed Lark</i>	21
<i>The Wood-Lark</i>	23
<i>The Tit-Lark</i>	28
<i>VARIETY of the Tit-Lark</i>	32
The White Tit-Lark	ib.
 <i>FOREIGN BIRD related to the Tit-Lark</i>	34
The Louisiana Lark	ib.
 <i>The Grasshopper-Lark</i>	36
<i>The Willow-Lark</i>	40
<i>The Meadow-Lark</i>	41
<i>The Italian Lark</i>	45
<i>The Calandre, or Large Lark</i>	47
<i>FOREIGN BIRDS analogous to the Calandre-Lark</i>	51
1. The Cape-Lark	ib.
A 2	2. The

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
2. The Shore-Lark — —	53
3. The Brown-checked Pennsylvanian Lark — —	55
<i>The Marsh-Lark</i> — —	57
<i>The Siberian Lark</i> — —	59
FOREIGN BIRDS <i>which are related to the Lark</i> — —	61
1. The Rufous Lark — —	ib.
2. The Cinereous Lark — —	62
3. The African Lark — —	63
<i>The Crested Lark</i> — —	65
<i>The Lesser Crested Lark</i> — —	72
<i>The Undated Lark</i> — —	74
FOREIGN BIRD <i>related to the crested Lark</i> — —	76
The Senegal Lark — —	ib.
<i>The Nightingale</i> — —	78
VARIETIES <i>of the Nightingale</i> — —	105
1. The Great Nightingale — —	ib.
2. The White Nightingale — —	106
FOREIGN BIRD <i>related to the Nightingale</i> — —	108
The Foudi-Jala — —	ib.
SPECIES <i>of the Fauvette</i> — —	110
1. The Pettychaps — —	111
2. The Passerinet, or Little Fauvette — —	117
3. The Black-Headed Fauvette — —	119
4. The Grisette or the Gray Fauvette, called in Provence, Passerine — —	125
5. The Babbler Fauvette — —	128
6. The Russet, or Fauvette of the Woods — —	131
7. The Reed Fauvette — —	134
8. The Little Rufous Fauvette — —	137
9. The Spotted Fauvette — —	140
10. The	

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
10. The Winter Fauvette, or Traine-Buiffon, or Mouchet — — —	142
The Alpine Fauvette — — —	146
The Pitchou — — —	149
 FOREIGN BIRDS <i>related to the Fauvettes</i>	 151
1. The Spotted Fauvette, from the Cape of Good Hope — — —	ib.
2. The Small Spotted Fauvette, from the Cape of Good Hope — — —	152
3. The Spotted Fauvette, from Louisiana — — —	ib.
4. The Yellow-Breasted Fauvette, from Louisiana — — —	154
5. The Rufous-Tailed Fauvette, from Cayenne — — —	155
6. The Fauvette of Cayenne, with a Brown Throat and Yellow Belly — — —	ib.
7. The Blueish Fauvette of Saint Domingo — — —	156
 The Yellow-Neck — — —	 158
The Redstart — — —	163
The Red-Tail — — —	171
The Guiana Red-Tail — — —	176
The Epicurean Warbler — — —	177
The Fift of Provence — — —	184
The Ortolan Pivote — — —	ib.
The Red-Breast — — —	185
The Blue-Throat — — —	195
FOREIGN BIRD <i>which is related to the Red-Breast and Blue-Throat</i> — — —	200
The Blue Red-Breast of North America — — —	ib.
 The Stone-Chat — — —	 203
The Whin-Chat — — —	212
FOREIGN BIRDS <i>which are related to the Stone-Chat and Whin-Chat</i> — — —	216
1. The Senegal Stone-Chat or Whin-Chat — — —	ib.
2. The — — —	216

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
2. The Stone-Chat from the Island of Luçon	217
3. Stone-Chat of the Philippines —	218
4. The Great Stone-Chat of the Philippines	219
5. The Fitert of Madagascar Stone-Chat	220
6. The Great Stone-Chat — —	222
7. The Stone-Chat of the Cape of Good Hope	223
8. The Spectacle Warbler —	225
<i>The Wheat-Ear</i> — —	228
SPECIES of the <i>Wheat-Ear</i> —	234
1. The Wheat-Ear — —	ib.
2. The Gray Wheat-Ear — —	ib.
3. The Cinereous Wheat-Ear —	235
The Rusty Wheat-Ear —	ib.
The Rufous Wheat-Ear —	236
FOREIGN BIRDS which are related to the <i>Wheat-Ear</i>	238
1. The Great Wheat-Ear, or White-Tail of the Cape of Good Hope — —	ib.
2. The Greenish Brown Wheat-Ear —	239
3. The Senegal Wheat-Ear —	240
<i>The Wagtails</i> — —	241
<i>The White Wagtail</i> — —	242
<i>The Bergeronettes, or Bergerettes</i> —	252
SPECIES of the <i>Bergeronettes</i> —	ib.
1. The Gray Bergeronette — —	ib.
2. The Spring Bergeronette —	256
3. The Yellow Bergeronette —	259
FOREIGN BIRDS which are related to the <i>Bergeronettes</i> — —	264
1. The Bergeronette from the Cape of Good Hope	ib.
2. The Little Bergeronette from the Cape of Good Hope — —	265
3. The Bergeronette of the Island of Timor	266
4. The Bergeronette from Madras —	267
<i>The</i>	The

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
<i>The Fig-Eaters</i> — —	269
<i>SPECIES of the Fig-Eaters</i> — —	270
1. Green and Yellow Fig-Eater —	ib.
2. The Cheric — —	271
3. The Little Simon — —	273
4. The Blue Fig-Eater —	275
5. The Senegal Fig-Eater — —	276
 <i>SPECIES of the American Fig-Eater</i>	 279
1. The Spotted Fig-Eater —	ib.
2. The Red-Headed Fig-Eater —	280
3. The White-Throated Fig-Eater —	281
4. The Yellow-Throated Fig-Eater —	282
5. The Green and White Fig-Eater —	284
6. The Orange-Throated Fig-Eater —	285
7. The Cinereous-Headed Fig-Eater —	286
8. The Brown Fig-Eater —	287
9. The Black-Cheeked Fig-Eater —	288
10. The Yellow Spotted Fig-Eater —	289
11. The Brown and Yellow Fig-Eater —	290
12. The Pine Fig-Eater — —	292
13. The Black-Collared Fig-Eater —	294
14. The Yellow-Headed Fig-Eater —	295
15. The Yellow-Throated Cinereous Fig-Eater —	297
16. The Collared Cinereous Fig-Eater —	298
17. The Belted Fig-Eater — —	300
18. The Blue Fig-Eater — —	301
19. The Variegated Fig-Eater —	303
20. The Rufous-Headed Fig-Eater —	304
21. The Red-Breasted Fig-Eater —	306
22. The Cærulean Fig-Eater —	307
23. The Golden-Winged Fig-Eater —	309
24. The Golden-Crowned Fig-Eater —	310
25. The Orange Fig-Eater — —	311
26. The Crested Fig-Eater —	312
27. The Black Fig-Eater — —	313
28. The Olive Fig-Eater — —	314
29. The	

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
29. The Prothonotary Fig-Eater	315
30. The Half-Collared Fig-Eater	316
31. The Yellow-Throated Fig-Eater	318
32. The Olive-Brown Fig-Eater	319
33. The Grasslet Fig-Eater	320
34. The Ash-Throated Cinereous Fig-Eater	321
35. The Great Fig-Eater of Jamaica	322
<i>The Middle-Bills</i>	325
<i>The Worm-Eater</i>	327
<i>The Black and Blue Middle-Bill</i>	329
<i>The Black and Rufous Middle-Bill</i>	331
<i>The Bimbelé, or Bastard Linnet</i>	333
<i>The Banana Warbler</i>	336
<i>The Middle-Bill, with White Crest and Throat</i>	339
<i>The Simple Warbler</i>	341
<i>The Pitpits</i>	342
SPECIES of the Pitpits	343
1. The Green Pitpit	ib.
2. The Blue Pitpit	344
VARIETIES of the Blue Pitpit	ib.
1. The Blue Manakin	ib.
2. The Blue Pitpit of Cayenne	345
3. The Variegated Pitpit	346
4. The Blue-Capped Pitpit	347
5. The Guira-Beraba	348
<i>The Yellow Wren</i>	350
<i>The Great Yellow Wren</i>	356
<i>The Common Wren</i>	357
<i>The Gold-Crested Wren</i>	366
VARIETIES of the Gold-Crested Wren	374
1. The Ruby-Crowned Wren	ib.
2. The	

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
2. The Red-Headed Wren —	375
3. The Scarlet-Crowned Blue Titmouse —	376
<i>The Titmouse-Wren</i> — —	377
<i>The Titmice</i> — —	379
<i>The Great Titmouse, or Ox-Eye</i> —	394
<i>The Colemouse</i> — —	401
VARIETIES of the Colemouse —	404
1. The Marsh Titmouse, or Blackcap —	ib.
2. The Canada-Titmouse — —	407
3. The White-Throat — —	408
4. The Creeper — —	410
<i>The Blue Titmouse</i> — —	412
<i>The Bearded Titmouse</i> — —	416
<i>The Penduline Titmouse</i> —	420
<i>The Languedoc Titmouse</i> — —	429
<i>The Long-Tailed Titmouse</i> —	432
<i>The Cape Titmouse</i> — —	439
<i>The Siberian Titmouse</i> — —	441
<i>The Crested Titmouse</i> — —	443
FOREIGN BIRDS which are related to the Titmice	447
1. The Crested Titmouse of Carolina —	ib.
2. The Collared Titmouse —	449
3. The Yellow-Rump Titmouse —	450
4. The Yellow-Throated Gray Titmouse —	451
5. The Great Blue Titmouse —	452
6. The Amorous Titmouse —	454
The Black Titmouse — —	456
<i>The Nuthatch</i> — —	458
VARIETIES of the Nuthatch —	465
1. The Little Nuthatch —	466
2. The Canada Nuthatch —	ib.
3. The Black-Crested Nuthatch —	467
Vol. V. a	4. The

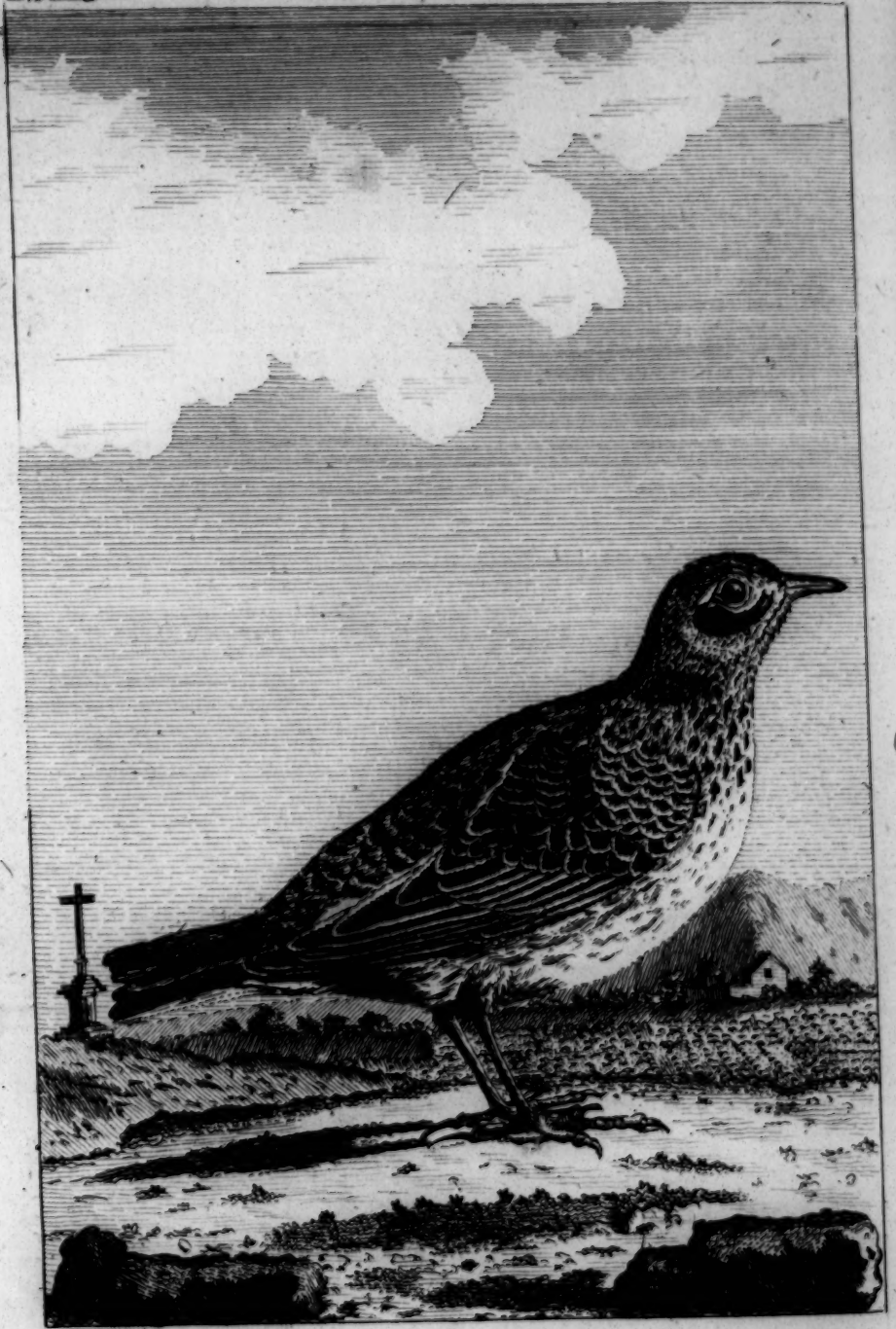
C O N T E N T S.

	Page
4. The Little Black-Crested Nuthatch —	468
5. The Black-Headed Nuthatch —	ib.
6. The Little Brown-Headed Nuthatch —	469
 <i>FOREIGN BIRDS related to the Nuthatch</i>	 471
1. The Great Hook-Billed Nuthatch —	ib.
2. The Spotted Nuthatch —	472
 <i>The Creepers</i> — —	 473
<i>The Common Creeper</i> — —	476
<i>VARIETY of the Creeper</i> —	480
The Great Creeper — —	ib.
 <i>The Wall Creeper</i> — —	 481
<i>FOREIGN BIRDS of the ancient Continent, which are related to the Creepers</i> —	 485
1. The Soui-Manga — —	487
Variety of the Soui-Manga —	488
2. The Red-Breasted Purple-Chestnut Soui-Manga	489
Varieties of the preceding —	490
1. The Little Creeper, or Soui-Manga	ib.
2. The Creeper, or Soui-Manga	491
3. The Red-Breasted Violet Soui-Manga	492
4. The Purple Soui-Manga —	493
5. The Collared Soui-Manga —	494
6. The Purple-Breasted Olive Soui-Manga	498
7. The Angala Dian — —	502
8. The Iris Soui-Manga —	504
9. The Red-Breasted Green Soui-Manga	505
10. The Black, White, and Red-Indian Creeper, or Soui-Manga —	506
11. The Bourbon Soui-Manga —	507

CONTENTS.

	Page
<i>The Long-Tailed Soui-Mangas</i> —	508
1. The Long-Tailed Violet-Hooded Soui-Manga	509
2. The Long-Tailed Soui-Manga of a Glossy Gold Green — —	511
3. The Great Green Long-Tailed Soui-Manga	512
4. The Creeper-Billed Red Bird —	514
5. The Creeper-Billed Brown Bird —	516
6. The Creeper-Billed Purple Bird —	518
<i>The American Guit-Guits</i> —	519
1. The Black and Blue Guit-Guit —	520
Variety of the Black and Blue Guit-Guit	522
2. The Black-Headed Green and Blue Guit-Guit	524
Varieties of the Black-Headed Green and Blue Guit-Guit — —	525
1. The Black-Headed Green Guit-Guit	ib.
2. The White-Throated Green and Blue Guit-Guit — —	526
3. The All-Green Guit-Guit	527
3. The Spotted Green Guit-Guit —	ib.
4. The Variegated Guit-Guit —	529
5. The Black and Violet Guit-Guit —	530
6. The Sugar-Bird — —	532

N^o 115



THE SKY-LARK.

T H E
S K Y - L A R K.

L'Alouette, *Buff.*

Alauda Arvensis, Linn. Scop. Brun. Mull. Kram. &c.

Alauda Vulgaris, Ray. Will. & Briss.

Alauda Cælipeta, Klein.

The Sky-lark or Field-lark, Lath. Penn. Alb. Will.*

THIS bird, which is now widely diffused, seems to have been a more ancient inhabitant of Gaul than of Italy; for its Latin

* The ancient Greek name, *Κορυδος*, or *Κορυδαλος*, is derived from *κορυς*, a helmet, on account of its crest: it had the epithets, *χαμαιζηλος*, *ωδικος*, *αγλαιος*, and *ευπλερος*; i. e. attached to the ground, excelling in song, distinguished in plumage, and of vigorous wing.

The Latin name, *Alauda*, is, according to Pliny, Suetonius and Varro, of Gaulish extraction. Hence the present French term *Alouette*.

In Italian, it is called *Lodola*, *Petronella*, *Allodola*, *Alodetta*.

In Spanish, *Eugniada*.

In old Saxon, *Leefwerc* or *Leeurich*.

In modern German, *Heid-lerche*, *Sang-lerche*, *Himmel-lerche*, *Korn-lerche*, *Grosse-lerche*, *Field-lerche*, &c. i. e. Heath-lark, Song-lark, Sky-lark, Corn-lark, Great-lark, and Field-lark, &c.

In Dutch, *Leeurich*:—in Sweden, *Laerka*.

In old and provincial English, *Wild-lark*, *Heath-lark*, and *Laverock*.

VOL. V.

B

name,

THE SKY-LARK.

name, *Alauda*, is, according to the best informed Roman authors, of Gaulish origin*.

The Greeks were acquainted with two species of larks: the one wore a tuft on its head, and for that reason termed *Korymbos* or *Korymbalos*, which the Latins render *Galerita* or *Cassita*; the other, which wanted the tuft, is the subject of this article †. Willughby is the only author that I know, who mentions that the latter sometimes bristles the feathers on its head so as to form an occasional crest, and I have myself ascertained this fact in regard to the male; and thus it is also entitled to the epithet *Galerita*. The Germans call it *Lerche*, which in many provinces is pronounced *leriche*, and is obviously intended to imitate its notes ‡. The Honourable Daines Barrington reckons it among

* The Celtic name is *Alaud*; whence *Aloue*, and afterwards *Alouette*, the present French name. Probably the soldiers of the legion styled *Alauda*, wore on their helmet a tuft something like that of the sky-lark. Schwenckfeld and Klein, who seem to have never read Pliny, derive *Alauda* from *laus*, a *laude*; because, according to the former, this bird rises seven times a-day to sing praises to God. It is admitted that all creatures attest the existence and glory of their Maker: but to suppose the small birds have stated hours of devotion, and to ground this inference on the accidental resemblance of words in two different languages, is a very puerile idea.

† Aristotle, *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 25.

‡ "It prolongs its *tirile, tirile, its tirile*." Linnæus, *Systema*.

the

the best of the singing * larks ; and as it copies the warble of every other bird †, he terms it a mocking bird : but if it lays no claim to originality of music, the delicacy and flexibility of its organs of voice smooth and embellish whatever it imitates.

In the state of freedom, it commences its song early in the spring, which is its season of love, and continues to warble during the whole of the summer. It is heard most in the morning and evening, and least in the middle of the day ‡. It is one of those few birds which chant on wing : the higher it mounts, the more it strains its voice ; and when it soars beyond the range of our sight, its music still distinctly strikes our ear. Must we impute this swell to the joyous elevation of its spirits, or the throbbing emotions of love ; or must we regard it as a sort of call, the signal of common danger ? The rapacious tribes, trusting to their strength, and meditating deeds of carnage, proceed with

* “ Its song is delightful for its variety ; is full of swells and falls.” *Olin.*

† Frisch.—Schwenckfeld pretends that it sings better than the crested lark : others prefer the warble of the latter ; Kœmpfer that of the Japanese lark, which is perhaps not of the same species. See particularly Barrington’s paper in the Philosophical Transactions for 1773, vol. lxiii. part 2.

‡ Aldrovandus. This may be the case in the hot climates of Italy and Greece ; but in our temperate climates, the sky-lark is not observed to pause at noon.

cautious and dark silence; the little harmless birds have nothing to depend on but their numbers; and their clamorous notes may summon the stragglers together, and at least inspire a pleasing, though often a vain confidence.—The sky-lark seldom sings on the ground; where however it constantly remains, except when it flies, for it never perches on trees. It may be reckoned among the pulverent birds*; and if it be kept in the cage, we must be careful to lay a bed of sand in a corner, that it may welter at its ease, and procure some relief of the vermin which torment it.

It has been fabled, that these birds have an antipathy to certain constellations; to *Arcturus*, for instance; and that they were silent when that star rises heliacally†. This seems to mark the time of moulting.

I need not stop to describe a bird so well known: I shall only observe, that the principal characters are these: the middle toe is closely connected, by the first phalanx, to the outermost on each foot; the nail of the hind toe is very long and almost straight, the anterior nails very short and slightly curved; the bill not weak, though awl-shaped; the tongue broad, hard and forked; the nostrils round, and half bare; the stomach fleshy, and large in proportion to the size of the bird; the liver di-

* Aristotle, *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49.

† Anton. Miraldus *apud Aldrovandum.*

vided into two very unequal lobes, the left one apparently checked in its growth by the pressure of the stomach; the intestinal tube is nine inches long, and two very small *cæca* communicate with it; there is a gall-bladder. The plumage is of a dingy cast; the tail contains twelve quills, and the wings eighteen, of which the middle-sized ones are cut almost square and notched, a character common to all the larks*. I shall add, that the males are rather browner than the females†; that they have a black collar, and that they have more white on the tail‡; that they have a bolder aspect, and are rather larger, though they never weigh more than two ounces; and lastly, that, as in almost all other species, they exclusively possess the talent of song. Olinia seems to suppose that their hind-nail is longer§; but I suspect, with Klein, that this depends as much upon the age as upon the sex.

In the opening of the vernal season, the male feels the ardour of love; he mounts into the

* Brisson and Willughby.

† Frisch and Aldrovandus. I believe that the larks of Beauce, which are sold at Paris, are browner than those of Burgundy. Some individuals are more or less of a rust colour, and have more or less of the wing-quills edged with that colour.

‡ Albin.

§ Gesner affirms, that he saw one of these nails about two inches long; but he does not tell us whether the bird was a cock or a hen.

air, warbling his impassioned strains; and ranges over an extent proportioned to the number of females, till he descries his favourite, and instantly he darts to the ground, and consummates the union. The impregnated female soon proceeds to form her nest; she places it between two clods of earth, and lines it with herbs and dry roots*, and is equally careful in concealing as in building it: accordingly few nests of sky-larks are found, in comparison with the number of these birds†. Each female lays four or five eggs, which are greyish, with brown spots; she sits only fifteen days at most, and employs still less time in training and educating her young. This expedition has often deceived persons who intended to rob the nestlings, and Aldrovandus among the rest‡. The same circumstance renders probable what Aldrovandus and Olina assert, that she has three hatches in the year; the first, in the beginning of May; the second, in the month of July; and the last, in the month of August: but if this take place, it must be in the warm countries, where incubation is more forward, where the young are sooner emancipated, and where the mother is soon in a condition to renew her loves. In fact, Aldrovan-

* Fowlers say, that the lark's nest is better constructed than that of partridges and quails.

† *Description of 300 Animals*,

‡ Tom. ii. p. 834.

dus and Olina wrote in the climate of Italy ; but Frisch, whose observations apply to Germany, mentions only two hatches annually ; and Schwenckfeld takes notice of one only in Silesia.

The young keep at a little distance from each other ; for the mother does not always gather them under her wings. She flutters over their heads, watches them with a truly maternal affection, directing their motions, anticipating their wants, and guarding them from danger.

The instinctive warmth of attachment which the female sky-lark bears to her young, often discovers itself at a very early period ; and even before she is capable of discharging the functions of a mother, which might be supposed to precede, in the order of nature, the maternal sollicitude. A young hen-bird was brought to me in the month of May, which was not able to feed without assistance ; I caused it to be educated, and it was hardly fledged when I received, from another place, a nest of three or four callow sky-larks. She took a strong liking to these new-comers, which were scarcely younger than herself ; she tended them night and day, cherished them beneath her wings, and fed them with her bill. Nothing could divert her tender offices : if the young were torn from her, she flew back to them as soon as she was liberated, and would not think

of effecting her own escape, which she might have done an hundred times. Her affection grew upon her; she neglected food and drink; she now required the same support as her adopted offspring, and expired at last, consumed with maternal anxiety. None of the young ones survived her; they died one after another: so essential were her cares, which were equally tender and judicious.

The most common food of the young sky-larks is worms, caterpillars, ants eggs, and even grasshoppers; which has justly procured them much regard in countries subject to the ravages of these destructive insects*. After they are grown up, they live chiefly on seeds, herbage, and in short, on all vegetable substances.

It is said, that those destined for song, should be caught in October or November, the males being preferred as much as possible†; and when they are furious and untractable, they must be pinioned, lest they dart with too great violence against the roof of the cage, and break their skull. They are easily tamed, and become so familiar that they will eat off the table, and even alight on the hand; but they cannot cling by the toes, on account of the form of the hind toe, which is too long and straight. This is undoubtedly the reason why they never perch

* Plutarch *de Iside*.

† Albin.

on trees.—It is easy to infer, that there ought to be no bars laid across their cage.

In Flanders, the young ones are fed with moistened poppy-seeds; and after they can eat without assistance, they are presented with crumbs of bread, likewise soaked: but when they begin to sing, they are given sheeps' and calves' hearts hashed with hard eggs*; and to this are added, wheat, spelt, and oats previously cleaned, millet, linseed, and the seeds of poppy and hemp, the whole being steeped in milk†. Frisch tells us, that when they subsist on bruised hemp-feed alone, their plumage is apt to turn black. It is also said, that mustard-seed is improper food for them; but except this, they may be fed with every other sort of farinaceous feed, and even every thing used at our tables, and become in some degree domestic birds. According to Frisch, they have a singular instinct of tasting with their tongue, before they venture to swallow.—They may be taught to sing, and to heighten their native warble with all the embellishments which our music can bestow. Some cock-larks, after hearing a tune whistled with the pipe, have caught the whole, and repeated it more agreeably than any linnet or canary.—Those which remain in the wild state, inhabit, during

* Albin.

† Olina—*Description of 300 Animals*—Frisch.

the summer, the highest and driest situations; and in winter, they descend into the plains, and assemble in numerous flocks. In that season they are very fat, for then they are almost always on the ground, and perpetually feeding. In summer, on the contrary, they are very lean: then they always go in pairs, eat sparingly, sing incessantly, and never alight but to hold the dalliance of love. During severe weather, particularly when much snow has fallen, they resort to the margins of the springs, where the frost does not prevail; in such seasons, they crop the grass, and are even obliged to seek their food among the horse-dung which is dropt on the high roads: yet notwithstanding, they are still fatter than in any part of the summer.

They mount in the air almost perpendicularly, and by successive springs, and hover at a vast height. They descend to the ground, on the contrary, by an oblique sweep, unless they are threatened by a ravenous bird, or attracted by a beloved mate, and in these cases they drop like a stone*.

It is easy to conceive, that these small birds, which soar so lofty, may be carried sometimes far to sea by a gust of wind, or even be wafted across the ocean. "As soon as we approach the European coasts, says Father Dutertre, we be-

* Olina.

gin to see birds of prey, larks, and goldfinches, which are driven off from the land, and are glad to rest on the masts and cordage of the vessels *." Hence Sir Hans Sloane saw them forty miles at sea, and the Count Marfigli met with them on the Mediterranean. It is even probable, that those which are found in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and other parts of America, have been driven thither the same way. The Chevalier des Mazis informs me, that the larks pass the island of Malta in the month of November; and though he does not specify the particular kinds, the sky-lark is probably one of them: for Lottinger has observed, that a considerable flight of sky-larks into Lorraine, ceases exactly at this time; and that as those bred in the country join the train of their visitors, few stay behind; but that shortly after, the usual numbers again appear, whether that others succeed to their place, or that they return back, which is the more probable supposition. However, it is certain that they do not entirely migrate, since they are found at all seasons in our province; and considerable numbers of them are caught in Beauce, Picardy, and many other parts, during winter. It is indeed the general opinion, in these places, that they are not birds of passage. If they be absent for a few days during the excessive cold weather, especially

* *Hist. des Antilles*, t. ii. p. 55.

after

after long continued snow, it is often because they retire under some rock or some sheltered cave*, as I have already said they haunt the perennial springs. Frequently it happens that they suddenly disappear in the spring, when the mild gleams which drew them from their retreats, are succeeded by frosts or storms, that drive them back. This temporary concealment of the lark was known to Aristotle †, and Klein assures us that he ascertained the fact from his own experience ‡.

This bird is found in all the inhabited parts of both continents, and as far as the Cape of Good Hope, according to Kolben §. It could even subsist amidst uncultivated tracts over-

* In the part of Bugey situated at the foot of the mountains between the Rhône and the Dain, an innumerable multitude of sky-larks are often seen about the end of October, or the beginning of November, for the space of a fortnight. During the intense cold which prevailed the last fortnight of January 1776, there appeared in the neighbourhood of Pont-de-Beauvoisin, such prodigious quantities of sky-larks, that one person with a pole killed as many as would load two mules. They took shelter in the houses, and were excessively lean. It is evident from these two cases, that the larks did not quit their ordinary residence for want of food; but still we cannot absolutely infer that they are not birds of passage. Thevenot says; that the larks appear in Egypt in the month of September, and continue there till the end of the year. *Voyage du Levant*, t. i. p. 493.

† *Hist. Anim.* lib. viii. 16. "The stork hides itself, and the blackbird, and the turtle, and the lark."

‡ P. 181.

§ *Hist. Gen. des Voyages*, t. iv. p. 243.

spread with heath and junipers; for it is exceedingly fond of these shrubs*, which shelter itself and its infant brood from the attacks of the birds of prey. If the sky-lark accommodates itself with such facility to every situation and every climate, it seems rather singular that the bird is not found in the Gold-coast, according to Villault, nor even in Andalusia, if we credit Averroes.

Every person knows the various contrivances for catching larks; the noose, the trammel, the springe, the draw-net, &c; but the engine most commonly employed, is what is called the *lark-net*. A cool morning gladdened by a bright sun, is chosen for the sport; a mirror that turns freely on its pivots is provided, and a pair of sky-larks are used as calls; for it is impossible to imitate their song so closely as to deceive them, and hence they listen to no artificial substitute. But they seem the most attracted by the mirror; not indeed to admire their image, as some have supposed, on account of the instinct which they have in common with almost all the other birds which are capable of being tamed, viz. that of singing with redoubled vivacity and emulation before a glass: their curiosity is raised by the dazzling glare which beams from every quarter as the mirror turns round; they perhaps mistake it for the undu-

* Turner and Longolius in *Gesner*.

lating surface of the crystal fountain, which in that season has to them its peculiar charms. Accordingly great numbers are caught every winter near the tepid springs, which they haunt. But the most successful sport is that with lime-twigs, as practised in French Lorraine*, and in other parts; and which, because it is little known, I shall particularly describe. For this purpose, 1500 or 2000 willow-rods of about three feet ten inches long are provided, very straight, or at least well smoothed; these are sharpened at one of the ends, and even slightly burnt, and the space of about a foot from the other end is spread with bird-lime. The stakes are planted in parallel rows, in a proper situation, commonly in fallow-ground, that is likely to harbour a sufficient number of larks to defray the expence, which is considerable. The rows ought to be as wide as to admit a person to pass easily between them; and each stake should be a foot distant from the next one, and placed opposite to the interval in the adjacent row. The art consists in planting these with great regularity, and quite perpendicular, and so that they shall retain their position as long as they are not touched, but yet so ticklish that they shall fall the instant a lark brushes against them in its flight.

* M. de Sonini has long practised this mode of fowling in his estate of Manoncour in Lorraine. The late king Stanislaus was fond of it, and often honoured it with his presence.

After

After all these limed-rods are planted, an oblong square is traced, which presents one of its sides to the ground where the larks are lodged; and at each corner a flag is fixed, which serves the fowlers as a mark, and sometimes as a signal for their manœuvres. The number of persons employed must be proportioned to the extent of the field.—About four or five o'clock in the afternoon, according as the autumn is more or less advanced, the company divides into two equal detachments, each conducted by an intelligent leader, who is likewise subject to the direction of the commander in chief, whose station is in the centre. The one detachment assembles at the flag on the right, the other at the one on the left; and each observing the most profound silence, extends itself in an arch, so that they meet at the distance of half a league from the front, and then form one rank, which gradually closes as it advances to the rods, and continually drives the larks before it. About sunset, the middle of the line ought not to be farther than two or three hundred paces from the front; and this is the time when they *charge**, that is, they proceed cautiously, stop, or lie flat on the ground, rise up or push forward, according to the commands of their leader: and if all these manœuvres are well executed and properly directed, the greatest part of the larks

* In French, *Donne*.

inclosed by the troop, and which now mount no higher than three or four feet, rush forward, and are caught among the limed rods; and falling to the ground with these, they can be picked up by the hand. If it is not too late, a second line is made on the opposite side, at the distance of fifty paces, which drives back the larks that had escaped; and is called *tacking about* *. The idle spectators are detained a little behind the flags, to avoid confusion.

An hundred dozen of larks or more are sometimes caught in one of these sweeps, and it is reckoned very bad sport when only twenty-five dozen are got. Coveys of partridges, and even owls, are also led sometimes into the snare; but such accidents are regarded as vexatious, since they scare away the larks. A hare likewise which happens to cross the field, or any sudden or uncommon noise, spoils the sport.

Many of the sky-larks are also destroyed in summer by the voracious tribes; for they are the ordinary prey of even the smallest of these: and the cuckoo, which has no nest of its own, frequently substitutes its eggs in the place of theirs †. Yet notwithstanding the havock which is made among them, they are extremely nu-

* In French, *Revirer*.

† "The cuckoo breeds in strangers' nests, especially in those of the ring-pigeon, of the petty-chaps, and of the ground-lark." *Hist. Nat. Anim.* lib. ix. 24.

merous ;

merous; which proves their great fecundity, and adds to the probability of the assertion, that they have three hatches annually. For so small an animal, the sky-lark is long-lived; the term being ten years, according to Olin; twelve, according to others; twenty-two, according to the account of a person of veracity; and even twenty-four, if we believe Rzaczynski.

The ancients pretended that the flesh of the lark, boiled, roasted, or even burnt and reduced to ashes, was a sort of specific in the colic. On the contrary, some modern observations shew that it often occasions that disorder, and Linnaeus judges it improper food for persons afflicted with gravelly complaints. The most probable account is, that this meat is very wholesome and pleasant when fat; and that the pains in the stomach, or gripes in the bowels, which are sometimes felt after eating, are owing to some portions of their small bones that have been inadvertently swallowed, and which are very minute and very sharp. The weight of the bird varies, according to the quantity of the fat, from seven or eight gros to ten or twelve.

Total length, about seven inches; the bill, six or seven lines; the hind nail straight, and measures ten lines; the alar extent, twelve or thirteen inches: the tail, two inches and three quarters, a little forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by twelve lines.

(A) Specific character of the Field or Sky Lark, *Alauda Arvensis*: "The two outermost quills of its tail are white lengthwise externally, the intermediate ones are ferruginous on the inside." Mr. Pennant tells us, that in the neighbourhood of Dunstable four thousand dozens of larks are usually caught for the London market, between the fourteenth of September and the twenty-fifth of February. In fine weather, the larkers use clap-nets with bits of mirror and a decoy: at other times, they employ a trammel net and a pointer dog.

VARIETIES of the SKY-LARK.

I. THE WHITE SKY-LARK. Brisson and Frisch properly consider this as a variety of the foregoing species. In fact, it is a true sky-lark, which according to Frisch comes from the north, like the white sparrow and flare, the white swallow and petty-chaps, &c. in all which the plumage retains the impression of their natal climate. Klein rejects this opinion, because at Dantzic, which is situated farther north than the countries where white larks sometimes appear, not one has been found in the course of half a century. If I were to decide this point, I should say that the assertion of Frisch,

Frisch, that all the white larks arrive from the boreal tracts, is too general, and that the objection which Klein makes is by no means conclusive. In fact, observations evince that white larks are found in other countries besides those of the north; but it is obvious that from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, they could more easily enter the western part of Germany, which is separated from these countries by only a narrow sea, than cross the Baltic, and reach the mouth of the Vistula and the coasts of Prussia.—At any rate, besides the white larks sometimes found near Berlin according to Frisch, they are often seen in the vicinity of Hildesheim in Lower Saxony. They are seldom of a snowy white; the subject examined by Brisson was tinged with yellow; but the bill, the feet, and the nails were entirely white.—At the very time when I was writing this article, a white lark was brought to me, which was shot under the walls of the little town where I live: the crown of the head and some parts of the body were of the ordinary colour; the rest of the upper surface, including the tail and the wings, was variegated with brown and white; most of the plumage and even the quills were edged with white; the under part of the body was white, speckled with brown, especially the fore part, and the right side; the lower mandible whiter than the upper, and the feet of a dirty white, variegated with brown. This subject

seemed to form the intermediate shade between the common lark and that which is of a pure white.

I have since seen another lark whose plumage was perfectly white, except on the head, where there were some traces of a grey but half effaced. It was found in the neighbourhood of Montbard. It is not likely that either this or the other lark came from the northern shores of the Baltic.

II. THE BLACK SKY-LARK. I join Brisson in considering this as a variety of the common sky-lark; whether we are to impute it to the bird's feeding on hemp-seed, or to any other cause. The subject which I have directed to be engraved was of a rufous brown at the rise of the back, and its feet of a light brown.

Albin, who saw and described this bird from nature, represents it entirely of a dull brown and reddish, verging to black; except however the back of the head, which is of a dun yellow, and below the belly, where there are some feathers edged with white; the feet, the toes, and the nails were of a dirty yellow. The subject from which Albin formed his description was caught with a net in a meadow near Highgate; and it appears that there such birds are seldom met with.

Mauduit assures me that he saw a lark which was perfectly black, and had been caught in the plain of Mont-rouge near Paris.

THE
RUFIOUS-BACKED LARK.

Alauda Rufa, Gmel.

L'Alouette Noire à Dos Fauve, Buff.

HAD not this bird been brought by Com-
merfon from Buenos-Ayres; were it not
much smaller than our common sky-lark, and a
native of a very different climate, the resem-
blance of its plumage is so striking that we
could not help considering it as only a variety
of the preceding species. The head, the bill,
the feet, the throat, the fore part of the neck,
and all the under surface of the body, are of a
blackish brown; the quills of the wings and of
the tail are of a somewhat lighter shade; the
outermost of these last are edged with rufous;
the hind part of the tail, the back, and the
shoulders, are of an orange fulvous; the small
and middle coverts of the wings blackish, edged
also with fulvous.

Total length, rather less than five inches; the
bill, six or seven lines, the edges of the lower man-
dible being a little scalloped near the tip; the *tar-*
sus, nine lines; the hind toe, two lines and a half,
and its nail four lines, slightly bent back; the
tail, eighteen lines, somewhat forked, consisting

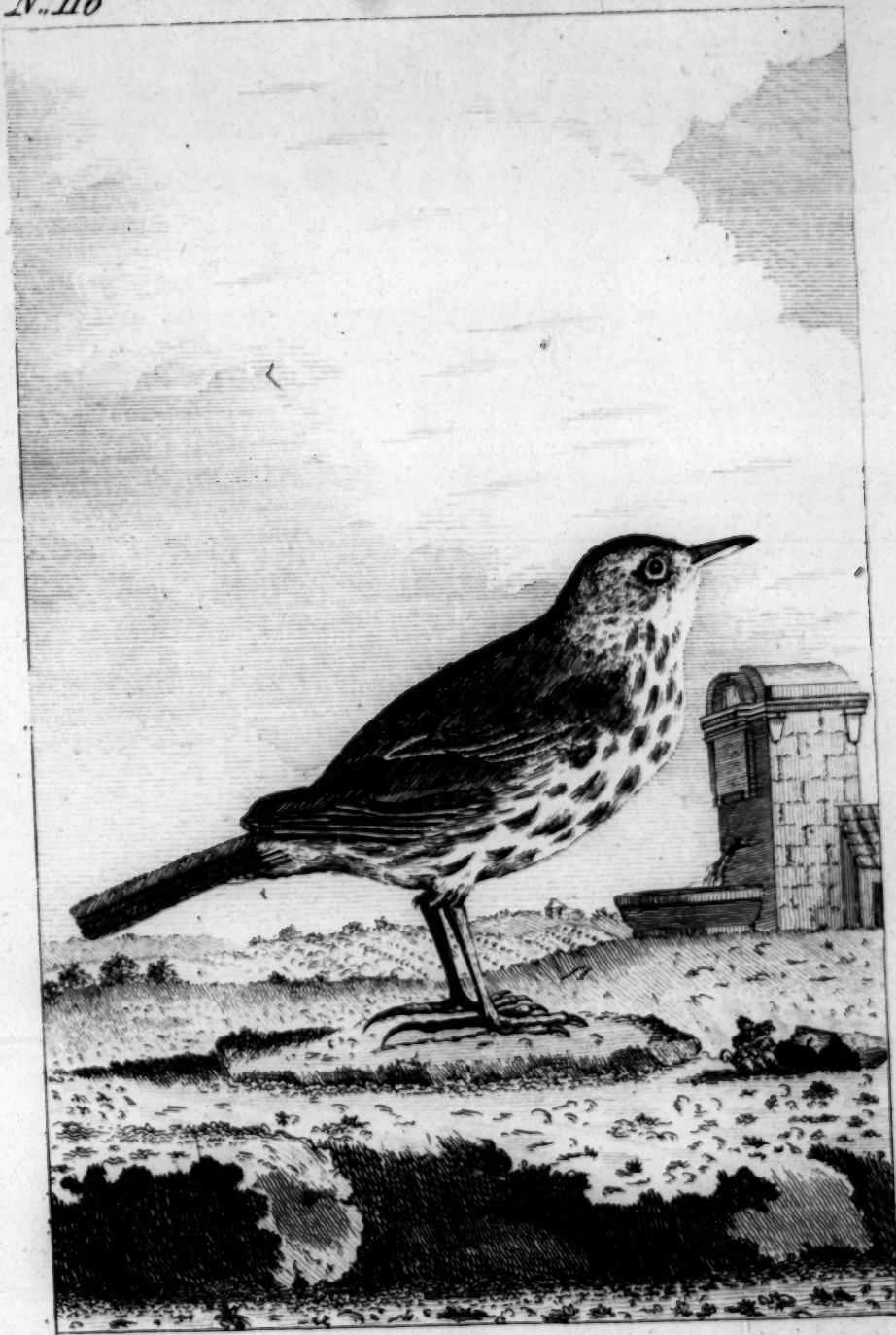
22 THE RUFOUS-BACKED LARK.

of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by seven or eight lines. Upon a close view, we perceive that its dimensions do not differ more than those of the preceding variety.

(A) Specific character of the *Alauda Rufa*:
“Its tail quills are brown; the eight middle ones tawny at the edges, the outermost white at the edge.”

B  L

N^o 116



THE WOOD - LARK .

T H E
W O O D - L A R K.

Le Cujelier, *Buff.*

Alauda Arborea, Linn. Gmel. Scop. Brun. Kram. Briff.

*Will. & Klein.**

I CONCEIVE this bird to differ so much from the common lark as to constitute a distinct species. It is distinguished by its size and its general form, being shorter, rounder, and much smaller, not weighing more than an ounce: by its plumage, whose colours are more dilute, less mixed with white, and its whitish crown is more conspicuous than in the ordinary species: by the dimensions too of its wing quills, the first and outermost being half an inch shorter than the rest. It is discriminated from the sky-lark also by its habits: it perches on trees, though only indeed on the thick branches, because the length of its hind toe, or rather the projection and slight curvature of the nail, will not permit it to cling to the twigs: it haunts

* In Italian, *Tottovilla*: in Danish, *Skow-lerke*: in Norwegian, *Heede-lerke*, *Lyng-lerke*: in German, *Lud-lerche*, *Wald-lerche*.

the uncultivated tracts near copses, or even the verge of young copses; and hence the name of *wood-lark*, though it never penetrates into the woods. Its song too resembles more the warble of the nightingale than that of the sky-lark*; and is heard not only in the day, but, like the former, in the night; both when it flutters on the wing and when it sits on a bough. Hebert observes, that the fifers of the Swiss guards imitate well its notes; hence I conclude, that this bird is common among the mountains of Switzerland†, as in those of Bugey. Its fecundity is inferior to that of the sky-lark; for, though it also lays four or five eggs, and is not so much destroyed, because smaller and less valued, yet its numbers are not so great‡. It breeds earlier, since its young are sometimes flown in the middle of March§, whereas the common lark does not hatch before the month of May. It is besides more delicate; for, according to Albin, it is impossible to rear the young taken out of the nest. But this holds only in regard to England, and other similar or colder climates; and Olina positively asserts, that in Italy the young are removed from the

* Olina and Albin.

† I am informed that it actually frequents the highest meadows in Switzerland.

‡ British Zoology.

§ Albin.

nest and raised at first like the nightingale*, and afterwards fed upon panic and millet.

In every other property the wood-lark bears a close analogy to the sky-lark. It mounts high, warbling its notes, and hovers in the air: it flies in flocks during the winter colds: it builds its nest on the ground, and conceals it under a turf: it lives ten or twelve years: it feeds on beetles, caterpillars, and seeds: its tongue is forked; its stomach muscular and fleshy: and it has no craw, but a moderate dilatation of the lower part of the *œsophagus*: its *cæca* are very small †.

Olina remarks that, in the male, the crown of the head is darker than in the female, and its hind nail longer. He might have also added, that its breast is more spotted, and its great wing quills edged with olive, while, in the female, they are bordered with gray. He subjoins, that the wood-lark is caught in the same manner as the sky-lark, which is true; but he pretends that this species is hardly known out of the Pope's territories, which is justly controverted by the best informed modern naturalists. In fact, it would seem that the wood-lark is not confined to any one country:

* Willughby remarks, that the song of the wood-lark resembles that of the blackbird.

† Willughby.

it is found in Sweden* and Italy†, and is probably spread through the intervening countries, and consequently scattered over the greatest part of Europe‡.—The wood-lark is pretty fat in autumn, and is then excellent meat.

Albin says, that there are three seasons for catching the wood-larks. The first is in the summer, when the small branchers begin to chirp, before they undergo the moulting.—The second is in the month of September, when they fly in flocks, and roam from one country to another, roving over the pasture grounds, and perching on trees near lime-kilns§. At this time the young birds change their plumage, and are no longer to be distinguished from the old ones.—The third season, and the most favourable for catching the wood-larks, begins with the month of January||, and lasts till the end of February, when they separate to pair. The young birds which are then caught, make

* Linnæus. † Olina. ‡ Linnæus. § Kramer.

|| M. Hebert killed these birds during winter in Brie, in Picardy, and in Burgundy: he remarked that, during this season, they are found on the ground in the plains, that they are pretty common in Bugey, and still more so in Burgundy. On the other hand, M. Lottinger asserts that they arrive about the end of February, and retire in the beginning of October. But these opposite accounts might be reconciled, if of these larks, as of the common sort, some are migratory and others stationary.

generally

generally the best fingers: they chirp a few days after, and with a clearer tone than those caught at any other season.

Total length, six inches; the bill, seven lines; the alar extent, nine inches (ten, according to Lottinger); the tail, two inches and a quarter, rather forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wing by thirteen lines.

(A) Specific character of the Wood-lark, *Alauda Arborea*: "Its head is encircled by a white annular belt." Its egg is light gray, with numerous dark and purplish dots.

T H E
T I T - L A R K.

La Farlouse, ou l'Alouette de Prés, *Buff.*

Alauda Pratensis, Linn. Gmel. Brun. Mull. Fris. Will. Briss.

Alauda Pratorum, Klein.*

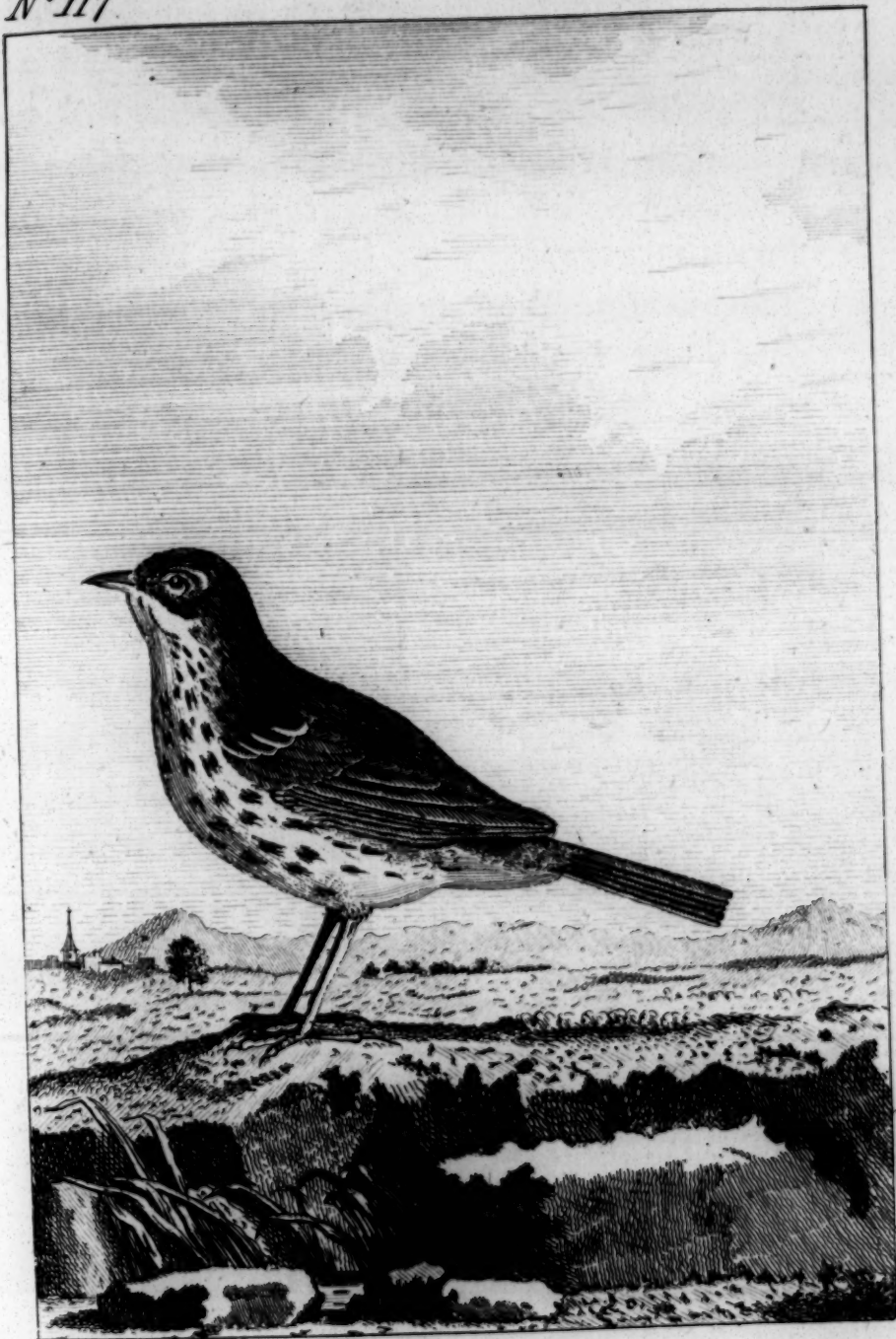
BELON and Olin mention this as the smallest of all the larks; but they were unacquainted with the grasshopper-lark, of which we shall afterwards speak. The tit-lark weighs six or seven gros, and its alar extent is only nine inches. The prevailing colour of its upper surface is olive, variegated with black on the fore part, and pure olive behind. Its under surface is yellowish white, with black longitudinal spots on the breast and the sides, and the ground colour of the plumage is black. The quills of the wings are almost black, edged with olive; and those of the tail are similar, except the outermost one, which is edged with white, and the one next it, which is tipped with the same colour.

This bird has a sort of white eyelids, which

* In Italian, *Lodola di Prato, Mattolina, Petragiola, Corriera*: in German, *Brein-vogel, Schmel-vogel*.

Linnaeus

N^o 117.



THE TIT-LARK.

B  L

Linnæus adopts as its specific character.—The male has in general more yellow than the female, on the throat, on the breast, on the legs, and even on the feet, according to Albin.

The tit-lark is flushed at the least noise, and shoots with a rapid flight; it perches, though with difficulty, on trees; it constructs its nest nearly as the wood-lark, and lays the same number of eggs, &c.* But, what distinguishes it, the first quill in its wing is equal to the rest, and its song, though very pleasant, is less varied. Mr. Pennant compares this to a jeering laugh, and Albin, to the warble of the canary finch; but both complain that it is too short and broken. However, Belon and Olina agree that this small bird is esteemed for the sweetness of its song; and I must own, that having occasion to hear it I found it really agreeable, though rather plaintive, and similar to the nightingale's strain, yet not so full and connected. It deserves to be noticed that this one was a female, since, in dissecting it, I discovered an *ovarium*: it contained three eggs that were larger than the rest, which seemed to promise a second hatch. Olina tells us that the tit-lark is raised in the same way as the nightingale, but its delicacy renders the success extremely precarious; and, as it lives only three or four years, we readily

* British Zoology.

perceive the reason why the species is unfrequent, and why the male, when he mounts into the air to descry his mate, is obliged to sweep a much wider circuit than the common lark, or even the wood-lark. Albin indeed pretends that it is long-lived, little subject to diseases, and lays five or six eggs : but if this were true, the number would be much greater.

According to M. Guys, the tit-lark feeds chiefly upon the worms and insects for which it searches in new-ploughed lands. Willughby actually found beetles and small worms in its stomach ; and I have myself seen in it portions of insects and of small worms, and also seeds and pebbles. If we believe Albin, it wags its tail from side to side while it eats.

The tit-larks breed generally in the meadows, and even in low and marshy grounds *. They make their nest on the surface †, and conceal it artfully. While the female hatches, the male sits on a neighbouring tree, and rises at times, singing and clapping his wings.

Willughby, who seems to have observed this bird with great accuracy, says properly that its iris is hazel, the tip of its tongue divided into several filaments, its stomach moderately fleshy, its *cæca* rather longer than in the sky-lark,

* British Zoology.

† Belon.—British Zoology.

and that it has a gall-bladder. All this I have verified ; and I shall add that there is no craw, and that even the *œsophagus* has scarce any inflation at its junction with the stomach, and that this stomach or gizzard is large in proportion to the body.—I kept one of these birds a whole year, and gave it no other food than small seeds.

The tit-lark inhabits Italy, France, Germany, England, and Sweden. Albin tells us that it appears (in that part of England, no doubt, where he lived) about the beginning of April with the nightingale, and that it departs about the month of September. It sometimes begins its flight before the close of August, according to Lottinger *, and seems to perform a long journey. If this be admitted, and if we suppose that it makes occasional halts in the temperate countries which it traverses, it may be among the number of those larks which are seen to pass the island of Malta in November. In autumn, that is, in the time of vintage, it haunts the vicinity of the high-roads. M. Guys remarks that it is exceedingly fond of the company of its fellows ; and if it cannot obtain the

* M. Lottinger only once saw a tit-lark in Lorraine, in the month of February 1774. But, that same winter, he saw other birds which do not usually remain in that province, such as green-finches, wagtails, &c. which M. Lottinger ascribes properly to the mildness of that year.

society of these, it will intermingle with the flocks of finches and linnets which it meets in its passage.

Comparing what authors have said of the tit-lark, I perceive differences which dispose one to think that the species is much subject to vary, or that it has been sometimes confounded with its kindred species, such as those of the wood-lark and the grasshopper-lark *.

VARIETIES of the TIT-LARK.

THE WHITE TIT-LARK scarcely differs from the preceding, except in the plumage, which is

* The disposition of the spots on the plumage is nearly the same in the three species, though the colours of these spots are different in each, and the habits still more different; but less so, however, than the opinions of authors concerning the properties of the tit-lark. We need only compare Belon, Aldrovandus, Brisson, Olin, Albin, &c. The colours by which Brisson characterises the species are not the same with those described by Aldrovandus; who takes no notice of the long hind toe, but speaks of a certain motion of the tail, which the others, except Albin, omit. The latter pretends that the tit-lark is long-lived, and little subject to diseases. Olin and Belon, on the contrary, assert that it is difficult to be raised; Olin positively asserts that it is short-lived. We need not mention their various opinions respecting its song.

almost

almost universally yellowish white, but yellower on the wings: its bill and feet are brown. Such was the one which Aldrovandus saw in Italy; and though the jesuit Rzacynski ranges it among the birds of Poland, I doubt whether it belongs to that country, or at least whether he ever saw it, since he uses the words of the Italian naturalist without any addition.

Total length, five inches and a half; its bill, six lines, the edges of the upper mandible a little scalloped near the point; its alar extent, about nine inches; its tail, two inches, somewhat forked, composed of twelve quills, exceeding the wings eight lines; the hind nail, shorter and more hooked than in the preceding species.

(A) Specific character of the Tit-lark, *Alauda Pratenfis*: "Above it is greenish brown, its two outermost tail quills white externally, a white line on its eye-brows." Its egg is roundish; dusky red, with numerous small spots.

FOREIGN BIRD *related to the* TIT-LARK.

THE

LOUISIANA LARK.

La Farlouzzanne, *Buff.*

Alauda Ludoviciana, Gmel.

I SAW this bird at M. Mauduit's, and it seems to resemble much the tit-lark. Its throat is of a yellowish grey; the neck and breast streaked with brown on the same ground: the rest of the under surface of its body is fulvous: the upper surface of its head and of its body is mixed with greenish brown, and with blackish; but as these colours are dingy, they contrast little with each other, and by their mixture they form an almost uniform dull brown: the superior coverts are greenish brown with no addition: the quills of the tail are brown; the outermost one consists of blackish brown and white, the white being turned outwards, and the next quill tipped with white: the quills and the superior coverts of the wings are of a blackish brown, edged with lighter brown.

Total length, near seven inches; the bill,
seven

seven lines; the *tarsus*, nine lines; the hind toe with its nail, rather less than eight lines, and this nail rather more than four lines, slightly curved; the tail, two inches and a half, and exceeds the wings by sixteen lines.

(A) Specific character of the *Alauda Ludoviciana*: "The last quills but one of the tail are tipped with white; the outermost are partly brown, partly white."

T H E
GRASHOPPER-LARK.

L'Alouette Pipi, *Buff.*

Alauda Trivialis, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Alauda Sepiaria, *Briss.*

Piep-Lerche, *Fris.*

Small Lark, *Will. & Ray.*

Pippit Lark, *Alb.*

The Grasshopper Warbler, *Lath.*

THIS is the smallest of all the French larks. The German epithet *piep* *, and the English *pippit*, allude evidently to its sibilous notes; and such appellations ought always to be preferred, as the most precise and expressive. Its cry, especially in winter, is compared to that of the grasshopper; but is rather stronger and shriller. It utters this both when on the wing, and when perched on the tallest branches among the bushes: for though its hind nail be very long (yet not so long or so straight as that

* The German name *Piep-lerche* is formed from the Latin *pipio*, which signifies to utter a feeble shrill cry like chickens. In modern English *pip* expresses the same, and is pronounced *peep* in the northern parts of the kingdom.

N^o 118



THE GRASSHOPPER LARK.

B  L

of the sky-lark), it sits on the small twigs, clasping with its fore claws. It also rests on the ground, and runs very nimbly.

In the spring, when the cock bird sings on a branch, he performs it with much action: he looks big, displays his wings, and gives every mark of ardent emotion. At intervals he rises to a considerable height, hovers some seconds, and drops almost in the same place, continuing all the time to sing; and his tones are soft, harmonious, and clear.—This little bird builds its nest in solitary spots, and conceals it beneath a turf; and its young often become the prey of the adders. It generally lays five eggs, marked with brown near the large end. Its head is rather long than round; its bill delicate and blackish; the edges of its upper mandible scalloped near the tip; its nostrils half covered by a convex membrane of the same colour with the bill, and partly concealed under the small feathers which cover it before: there are sixteen quills in each wing; the upper surface of its body is of a greenish variegated brown; the under surface, of a yellowish white, speckled irregularly on the breast and neck: the ground colour of its plumage is deep cinereous: lastly, there are two whitish stripes on the wings, which Linnæus has made one of the characters of the species.

The grasshopper-larks appear in England about the middle of September, and great numbers of them are then caught in the environs of London*. They frequent the heaths and plains, and flutter at a moderate height. Some generally remain during the winter in the fens near Sarbourg.

We may infer from the slender form of its bill, that the grasshopper-lark feeds chiefly on insects and small feeds; and from its diminutive size, that it is not long-lived. It is found in Germany, in England, and in Sweden, according to the *Systema Naturæ* of Linnæus, though he takes no notice of it in his *Fauna Suecica*, at least in the first edition.

It is moderately tall. Total length, about five inches and a half; its bill, six or seven lines; its hind toe, four lines, and its nail five; its alar extent, eight inches and one-third; its tail two inches, and exceeding the wings an inch †; its intestinal tube, six inches and a half; the œsophagus, two inches and a half, dilated before its insertion in the gizzard, which is muscular; there are two small *cæca*; I could find no gall-bladder: the gizzard occupies the left side of the lower belly, and is covered by the liver, and not by the intestines.

* Albin.

† Composed of ten quills, according to a good observer; but I suspect that two had been plucked.

(A) Specific

(A) Specific character of the Grasshopper-lark, *Alauda Trivialis*: "Its tail quills are brown; the outermost, half white; the second, white at its wedge-like tip, with a double whitish line on the wings." Its egg is light grass green, thinly sprinkled with deeper-coloured specks.

T H E
W I L L O W - L A R K.

La Locustelle, *Buff.*
Locustella Avicula, *Will.*

THIS species is still inferior to the preceding, and indeed it is the smallest of all the European larks. We are indebted to the *British Zoology* for the account of it. It annually visits some willow-hedges near a pool in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire; where it continues the whole summer. Its habits and general form are the same as those of the grasshopper-lark. With regard to its plumage, the head and the upper surface of the body are yellowish brown marked with dusky spots; the quill feathers are brown, edged with dirty yellow; the tail feathers, deep brown; it has a sort of whitish eye-brows, and the under side of the body white tinged with yellow *.

T H E

* "Nothing can be more amusing, says Mr. White, than the whisper of this little bird, which seems to be close by though at an hundred yards distance; and, when close at your ear, is scarce any louder than when a great way off. Had I not been a little acquainted with insects, and known that

T H E
M E A D O W - L A R K,

La Spipolette, *Buff.*

Alauda Campestris, *Linn. Gmel. Brun. Mull. Briss. &c.*

Alauda Dumetorum, *Klein **.

THIS bird is rather larger than the tit-lark. Its hind toe is very long, as that of the sky-lark, but its body is slenderer: it is also distinguished by the shake of its tail, similar to that of the wagtail and of the tit-lark. It inhabits heaths and uncultivated tracts, and frequents the oat-stubble soon after the corn is reaped, where it gathers in numerous flocks.

That the grasshopper kind is not yet hatched (18th April), I should have hardly believed but that it had been a *locusta* whispering in the bushes. The country people laugh when you tell them that it is the note of a bird. It is a most artful creature, sculking in the thickest part of a bush; and will sing at a yard distance provided it be concealed. . . . In a morning early, and when undisturbed, it sings on the top of a twig, gaping, and shivering with its wings." *Natural History of Selborne*, p. 45.

* In Italian, *Spipoletta*: in German, *Gickerlin*, *Brach-larke*, *Gereut-lerche*, *Kraut-lerche*; in Danish, *Mark-larke*: in Polish, *Zdzbto*.

In

THE
WILLOW-LARK.

La Locustelle, *Buff.*

Locustella Avicula, *Will.*

THIS species is still inferior to the preceding, and indeed it is the smallest of all the European larks. We are indebted to the *British Zoology* for the account of it. It annually visits some willow-hedges near a pool in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire; where it continues the whole summer. Its habits and general form are the same as those of the grasshopper-lark. With regard to its plumage, the head and the upper surface of the body are yellowish brown marked with dusky spots; the quill feathers are brown, edged with dirty yellow; the tail feathers, deep brown; it has a sort of whitish eye-brows, and the under side of the body white tinged with yellow *.

THE

* "Nothing can be more amusing, says Mr. White, than the whisper of this little bird, which seems to be close by though at an hundred yards distance; and, when close at your ear, is scarce any louder than when a great way off. Had I not been a little acquainted with insects, and known
that

T H E
M E A D O W - L A R K,

La Spipolette, *Buff.*

Alauda Campestris, *Linn. Gmel. Brun, Mull. Briss. &c.*

Alauda Dumetorum, *Klein **.

THIS bird is rather larger than the tit-lark. Its hind toe is very long, as that of the sky-lark, but its body is slenderer: it is also distinguished by the shake of its tail, similar to that of the wagtail and of the tit-lark. It inhabits heaths and uncultivated tracts, and frequents the oat-stubble soon after the corn is reaped, where it gathers in numerous flocks.

that the grasshopper kind is not yet hatched (18th April), I should have hardly believed but that it had been a *locusta* whispering in the bushes. The country people laugh when you tell them that it is the note of a bird. It is a most artful creature, sculking in the thickest part of a bush; and will sing at a yard distance provided it be concealed. . . . In a morning early, and when undisturbed, it sings on the top of a twig, gaping, and shivering with its wings." *Natural History of Selborne*, p. 45.

* In Italian, *Spipoletta*: in German, *Gickerlin*, *Brach-lerche*, *Gereut-lerche*, *Kraut-lerche*; in Danish, *Mark-larke*: in Polish, *Zdzbto*.

In

In spring, the male perches to invite or to discover his mate; and sometimes he mounts into the air, singing with all his might, and again returns quickly to the ground, which is always the scene of their amours.

If a person happens to come near the nest, the female betrays it by her cries; and this evinces a different instinct from that of the other larks, which, when danger threatens, remain silent and fixed.

Willughby saw a nest of the meadow-lark in a furze-bush close on the ground; and formed of moss, lined with straw and horse-hair.

People have had the curiosity to raise the young males for the sake of their song; but it requires attention and care. The cage must at first be covered with a green cloth, little light must be admitted, and a profusion of ants' eggs must be furnished. After they are accustomed to feed in their prison, the supply of the ants' eggs may be abridged by degrees, and bruised hemp-feed substituted, mixed with flour and yolks of eggs.

The meadow-larks are caught with the drag-net, like the sky-larks, and also with lime-twigs, which are placed in the trees which they haunt. They associate with the finches; and it appears even that they arrive and depart along with these.

The males are hardly to be distinguished from the females by their exterior appearance; but if another male be presented shut in a cage, they will instantly attack it, as an enemy or a rival*.

Willughby says, that the meadow-lark differs from all the other larks by the blackness of its bill and feet: he adds, that its bill is slender, straight, and pointed, and the corners of its mouth edged with yellow; that it has not, like the wood-lark, the first quills of the wings shorter than the succeeding; and that in the male the wings are rather darker than in the female.

This bird is found in Italy, Germany, England, Sweden, &c.† Briffon considers the Jessop meadow-lark as the same species with his, though the hind nail is much longer in the latter; but that nail varies much according to age, sex, &c. There is a wider difference between the meadow-lark of Briffon and that of Linnæus, though both naturalists regard them as the same kind: in that of the latter, all the quills of the tail, except the two middle ones, are white from their origin to half their length; but in that of the former, the two outermost quills only are white; not to mention many other

* Frisch.

† Aldrovandus and Willughby.

minute differences, which taken together are sufficient to constitute a variety.

The meadow-larks live on small seeds and insects. Their flesh, when fat, is excellent.—The head and all the upper surface of the body are dun grey, tinged with olive; the eye-brows, the throat, and all the under surface of the body are yellowish white, with brown oblong spots on the neck and breast; the quills and coverts of the wings, brown, edged with lighter brown; the quills of the tail blackish, except the two intermediate ones, which are brown gray, the outermost edged with white, and the next one tipped with the same: lastly, the bill is blackish, and the feet brown.

Total length, six inches and a half; the bill, six or seven lines; the alar extent, above eleven inches; the tail, two inches and a half, somewhat forked, and composed of twelve quills; it projects fifteen lines beyond the wings.

(A) Specific character of the Meadow-lark, *Alauda Campestris*: “Its tail quills are brown; the lower half, except two intermediate quills, white; the throat and breast yellow.” Its egg resembles much that of the sky-lark, only it is scarce one half the size, and its tints are lighter.

T H E

I T A L I A N L A R K.

La Girole, *Buff.*Alauda Italica, *Gmel. & Briff.*Giarola, *Ray, Will. & Aldrov.*

BRISSON suspects, with much probability, that the subject observed by Aldrovandus was a young bird, whose tail, being extremely short and consisting of very narrow feathers, was not entirely formed, and in which the junction of the mandibles was edged with yellow. But I should imagine he ought to have drawn another inference besides, that it was only a variety of the common species derived from age, since Aldrovandus, the only author who mentions it, saw no more than one specimen. Its size was the same with that of the sky-lark, and it had the chief character, which is the long nail projecting from each foot. The plumage of the head and of the upper side of the body was variegated with chestnut, with lighter brown, with whitish, and with bright rufous. Aldrovandus compares it to that of the quail, or of the woodcock. The under surface

surface of the body was white; the back of the head encircled with a sort of whitish crown; the quills of the wings brown chestnut, edged with a lighter colour; those of the tail, at least the four middle ones, of the same colour; the pair following, divided by chestnut and white; and the last pair entirely white; the tail somewhat forked, and an inch long; the ground colour of the plumage cinereous; the bill red, with a large opening; the corners of the mouth yellow; the feet flesh-coloured; the nails whitish; the hind nail six lines in length, almost straight, and only a little curved at the tip.

This bird was killed near Bologna, about the end of May. I wish those naturalists who have an opportunity of observing it, would refer it to its true species; for I much doubt whether it forms a separate species. Ray supposed that it belonged to that of the wood-lark, and differing only in the colours of its tail quills; but it is equal to the sky-lark, and consequently much larger than the wood-lark; and if with Brisson we reckon it a young bird, this distinction will be the more important.

(A) Specific character of the *Alauda Italica*:
“ Its middle tail quills are bay, the last but one white at the tip, the two outermost entirely white.”

THE

CALANDRE, OR LARGE LARK.

Alauda Calandra *, *All the Naturalists.*

OPPIAN, who lived in the second century of the Christian æra, is the first of the ancients who mentions this lark; and he describes the best method for catching it, which is precisely the same as that since proposed by Olina, viz. to spread a net near the brook whither that bird usually resorts to drink.

This bird is larger than the sky-lark; its bill is stronger and shorter, so that it is able to bruise grain; and the species is less numerous, and not so widely spread. In other respects, the calandre resembles exactly the ordinary lark. Its plumage, its port, its shape, its habits, and its tones, are the same. Its warble is perhaps more sonorous than that of the sky-lark, but is as pleasant †; for, in Italy, it is an usual

* Oppian termed it *Καλανδρα*, and gave it the epithet of *Μεγαλαλας*, or *Largest*.—Hence all the modern names: In Italian and Spanish, *Chalandria*: in German, *Kalander* or *Galander*, &c.

† Belon.

compliment to say one sings like a calandre*. Like the common lark, also, it can imitate exactly the notes of several birds, such as the goldfinch, the linnet, the canary, &c. and even the chirping of young chickens, and the love-squall of the she-cat†; in short, every sound adapted to its organs, and impressed in its tender age.

To have good singers, we must, according to Olina, take the young calandres from the nest, at least before the first moult, and preferring those especially which are hatched in August. We begin with a paste mixed partly with sheep's heart, and afterwards add seeds and crumbs of bread, taking care always to lay rubbish in the cage for whetting their bill, and also sand for them to welter in when teased with vermin. But, in spite of all our attention, we shall derive little pleasure the first year; for the calandre is slowly fashioned into habits of slavery. In the beginning, we should even pinion their wings, and instead of the top of the cage we should substitute a spread canvass‡. But after they are reconciled to their situation, and have acquired the proper bias, they will sing incessantly, grow so fond of repeating their own warble, or that of other birds, as soon to neglect their food§.

* Aldrovandus. † Olina. ‡ Idem. § Gesner.

The male is larger, and blacker round the neck; the female has only a very narrow collar *. Some instead of a collar have a large black space, and such was the one that we have figured.—The calandre nestles on the ground like the common lark, under a grassy tuft, and lays four or five eggs. Olin adds, that it lives only four or five years, and consequently is far from gaining the age of the sky-lark. Belon conjectures that it forms flocks like the last, and subjoins that it is never seen in France, unless it be brought hither: but this assertion relates only to Mans and the contiguous provinces; for the species is frequent in Provence, where it is called *coulassade* on account of its black collar, and where it is usually bred for the sake of its song. With regard to Germany, Poland, Sweden, and the other northern countries, it seems not to visit them. It is found in Italy, in the Pyrenees, and in Sardinia; and lastly, Dr. Russel informed Edwards, that it was common near Aleppo; and Edwards gives a coloured figure

* Edwards.—The person who communicated this observation to Mr. Edwards, had a method of distinguishing the male from the female, in small birds. It was to lay them on their back, and blow up their breast: when the bird was a female, the feathers parted on each side, leaving the breast bare. But this method is not certain except in the season of hatching. *Gesner.*

of a true calandre, which came, it is said, from Carolina. Itself or its progenitors might have been driven across the Atlantic by the fury of the winds, and in that warm climate it would thrive and become naturalized.

Adanson regards the calandre as intermediate between the sky-lark and the thrush: but this analogy must be restricted to the plumage and the external form; for the habits of the calandre and of the thrush are very different, especially in the mode of constructing their nests.

Total length, seven inches and a quarter; the bill, nine lines; the tail, two inches and one-third, consisting of twelve quills, of which the two outer pairs are edged with white, the third pair tipped with the same colour, the intermediate pair brownish gray, and all the rest black; these quills project a few lines beyond the wings: the hind toe measures ten lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda-Calandra*: "Its outermost tail quill is externally entirely white, the second and third are tipped with white; there is a brown stripe on the breast."

FOREIGN BIRDS

ANALOGOUS TO THE CALANDRE-LARK.

I.

THE CAPE - LARK.

La Cravate Jaune, ou Calandre du Cap de Bonne Espérance.

Alauda Capensis, Linn. & Briss.

I DID not see the individual from which the figure in the *Planches Enluminées* was drawn, but I have examined several others of the same species. In general, the upper side of the head is brown in the males, variegated with gray; the throat and the top of the neck, beautiful orange; and the collar is edged with black through the whole verge of its circumference: the same orange forms also a sort of eyebrows, and is scattered in small spots on the little coverts of the wing, and on its anterior border, whose margin it defines: the breast is variegated with brown, gray, and blackish; the belly and loins, with orange rufous; the under surface of the tail, grayish; the quills of the tail of a brown cast, but the four outer pairs are edged and terminated with white; the quills of the wings brown, and also edged, the large ones with yellow,

low, and the middle ones with gray : lastly, the bill and feet are of a brown gray, variously intense.

In two females which I observed, the collar was not orange, but light rufous ; the breast speckled with brown on the same ground, which became more intense as it retired from the fore part : lastly, the upper surface of the body was more variegated, because the feathers were edged with a lighter gray.

Total length, seven inches and a half ; the bill, ten lines ; the alar extent, eleven inches and a half ; the hind toe, including the nail, longer than the middle toe ; the tail, two inches and a half, somewhat forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by fifteen lines.—I saw and measured a specimen which was an inch longer than the above, and all its other dimensions were proportionally large. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Capensis* : "Its three lateral tail quills are tipped with white ; its throat is yellow margined with black ; its eyebrows are yellow."

II.

THE SHORE-LARK.

Le Hauffe-Col Noir, ou l'Alouette de Virginie, *Buff.*

Alauda Alpestris, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Alauda Virginiana, *Briss.*

Alauda Guttur Flavus, *Catesby.*

I RANGE this American lark beside the preceding, to which it is much akin: it differs however by its climate, by its magnitude, and by some accidents of its plumage. It sometimes enters Germany in the time of snow; for which reason, Frisch terms it *the winter lark*. But we must not confound it with the *lulu*, which, according to Gésner, might bear the same appellation, since it appears when the ground is buried with snow. Frisch says that it is little known in Germany, and that the place of its retreat is not ascertained.

These shore-larks are also caught sometimes in the neighbourhood of Dantzic, with other birds, in the months of April and December, and one of them lived several months in a cage. Klein presumes that they had been driven by a gust of wind from North America into Norway, or the countries still nearer the pole, whence they would easily pass into milder climates.

It appears too that they are birds of passage:

E 3

for

for we learn from Catesby, that they are seen in Virginia and Carolina only in winter, advancing from the north in great flocks; and that in the spring they return by the same route. During their stay they frequent the downs, and feed upon the oat which grows among the sand *.

This lark is of the bulk of the ordinary sort, and its song is nearly the same. The upper side of its body is brown; its bill black; its eyes placed on a yellow bar that rises from the base of its bill; its throat and the rest of its neck of the same colour; and this yellow is partly terminated on each side by a black bar, which, rising from the corners of the mouth, passes under the eyes, and reaches the middle of the neck; it is terminated below the neck by a sort of collar or black gorget: the breast and all the under side of the body are of a deep straw colour.

Total length, six inches and a half; the bill, seven lines; the hind toe and nail still longer than in our lark; the tail, two inches and a half, a little forked, composed of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings ten or twelve lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Alpestris*: "Its tail quills are white the half of their inside; its throat yellow; the stripe under its eyes, and on its breast, black."

* *Uniola Panicula*, Linn.

III. THE

III.

THE BROWN-CHEEKED PENN.
SYLVANIAN LARK.

Alauda Rubra, Gmel.

Alauda Pennsylvanica, Briss.

The Red Lark, *Penn. & Lath.*

THIS is a migratory lark common to both continents: for Bartram, who sent the specimen to Edwards, wrote, that it appears in Pennsylvania in the month of March, and is not seen after the end of May, but advances northward; and, on the other hand, Edwards found it in the vicinity of London.

This bird is of the size of the meadow-lark: its bill is thin, pointed, and of a deep brown colour; its eyes brown, edged with a lighter tint, and surrounded by an oval brown spot, which descends on the cheeks, and bounded by a zone, which is partly white and partly bright fulvous. All the upper side of its body is dull brown, except the two outer quills of its tail, which are white; its neck, its breast, and all the under side of its body, of a reddish fulvous speckled with brown: its feet and nails are deep brown, like its bill: its hind nail is very long, but not quite so long as in the sky-lark. A peculiarity

of this species is, that when the wing is closed, the third quill reckoning from the body reaches the end of the longest quills; which, according to Edwards, is an invariable character of the wagtails. But this is not the only point of analogy between the larks and the wagtails; for we have before seen that the meadow and tit-larks have a similar shake in their tails. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Rubra*: "It is brown, the space about its eyes black, its two outermost tail quills white."

THE

MARSH - LARK.

La Rouffeline, ou l'Alouette de Marais, *Buff.**Alauda Mosellana, Gmel.**

THIS lark, which is found in Alsace, is of a middle size between the sky-lark and the tit-lark. The upper part of its head and body is varied with rufous and brown; the sides of the head, rusty, marked with three brown stripes that are almost parallel, and of which the highest passes below the eye: the throat is of a very light rufous; the breast of a deeper rufous, and sprinkled with little brown spots; the belly, and the lower coverts of the tail, light rufous; the quills of the tail and wings blackish, and edged with the same rufous; the bill and feet yellowish.

Like many other species of this kind, the marsh-lark begins its song at dawn, which, according to Rzaczynski, is exceedingly pleasant. Its name shews that it haunts wet situations: it often frequents the sandy margin of the Moselle, and sometimes breeds on its banks,

* Rzaczynski terms it the Pine-lark; in Polish, *Skowronek Borowy*.

near

near Metz, where it appears annually in October; at which time a few are caught.

Mauduit told me of a rufous lark, in which the feathers on the upper part of the body were tipped with white, and also the lateral quills of the tail: this is probably a variety of the marsh-lark,

Total length, six inches and a quarter; the bill, eight lines; the *tarsus*, an inch; the hind toe, three lines and a half, somewhat curved; the tail, two inches and a quarter, and exceeds the wings by eighteen lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Marsh-lark, *Alauda Mosellana*: "It is rufous, below rufous white; its cheeks and breast marked with brown lines; its tail black, with a rufous margin."

T H E

SIBERIAN LARK.

*La Ceinture de Prêtre, ou l'Alouette de Sibérie, Buff.**Alauda Flava, Gmel.*

OF all the birds denominated larks, this is the most conspicuous for beauty of plumage. Its throat, its face, and the sides of its head, are of a pleasant yellow, which is set off by a black spot between the eye and the bill, that joins to another larger one immediately below the eye: its breast is ornamented with a broad black girdle: the rest of the under surface of its body is whitish; the sides a little yellowish, variegated with deeper spots; the upper part of its head and body variegated with rusty and dun gray; the superior coverts of its tail yellowish, and its quills blackish, edged with gray, except the outermost, which are white; the wing quills gray, finely edged with a blacker colour: the superior coverts are of the same gray, bordered with rusty; the bill and feet leaden gray.

This bird was sent from Siberia, where it is still not common.—The navigator John Wood speaks of small birds like larks seen at Nova Zembla:

Zembla*: these are probably of the same species, since both prefer an arctic climate.— Lastly, in the *Fauna Russica* I find the *Alauda Tungustica aurita*, or the crested lark of Tunguse, a nation which borders on Siberia. But we still want observations to assign these birds their true place.

Total length, five inches and three quarters; the bill, six or seven lines; the nail, five lines and a half; the tail two inches, composed of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings an inch.

* Hist. Gen. des Voyages, t. xv. p. 167.

FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE LARK.

I.

THE RUFOUS LARK.

La Variole, *Buff.**Alauda Rufa, Gmel.*

COMMERSON brought this beautiful little bird from the country watered by the *de la Plata*. The upper surface of its head and body is blackish, prettily variegated with different rufous tints: the fore part of its neck is mailed with the same; its throat, and all the under surface of its body, whitish; the quills of its tail brown, the eight middle ones edged with light rufous, and the two outer pairs edged with white; the great quills of the wings gray, and the middle ones brown, all edged with rusty colour; the bill brown, grooved near the point; the feet yellowish.

Total length, five inches and a quarter; the bill, eight lines; the *tarsus*, seven or eight lines; the hind toe, three lines, and its nail four lines; the tail, twenty lines, somewhat forked, consisting

fisting of twelve quills, exceeding the wings by an inch. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Rufa*: "Its tail quills are brown; the eight mid ones rusty at the edge, the outermost white at the edge."

II.

THE CINEREOUS LARK.

La Cendrille, *Buff.*
Alauda Cinerea, *Gmel.*

I HAVE seen the figure of a lark from the Cape of Good Hope, in which the throat and all the under part of the body were white, the upper part of the head rufous, and a sort of cap with a border of white stretching from the base of the bill beyond the eyes: on each side of the neck was a rufous spot edged with black above; the upper surface of the neck and body, cinereous; the superior coverts of the wings, and their middle quills, gray; the large quills black, and so were those of the tail.

Total length, five inches; the bill, eight lines; the nail of the hind toe straight and pointed, and equal to the toe; the tail, eighteen

or

or twenty lines, and projecting nine lines beyond the wings.

Is there any analogy between this bird and the cinereous lark which Dr. Shaw saw in plenty near Biserta, which is the ancient Utica? Both these birds are natives of Africa; but the distance is prodigious from the coasts of the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope; and the cinereous lark of Biserta is not sufficiently known to permit us to decide its species. May it not be related to the Senegal lark? [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Cinerea*: "It is cinereous; its belly and vent white; the quills of its wings and tail brown, the outermost externally white near the tip."

III.

THE AFRICAN LARK.

Le Sirli du Cap de Bonne Esperance, *Buff.*
Alauda Africana, *Gmel.*

IF this bird seem to differ from the larks by the curvature of its bill, it approaches them still more by the length of its hind nail.

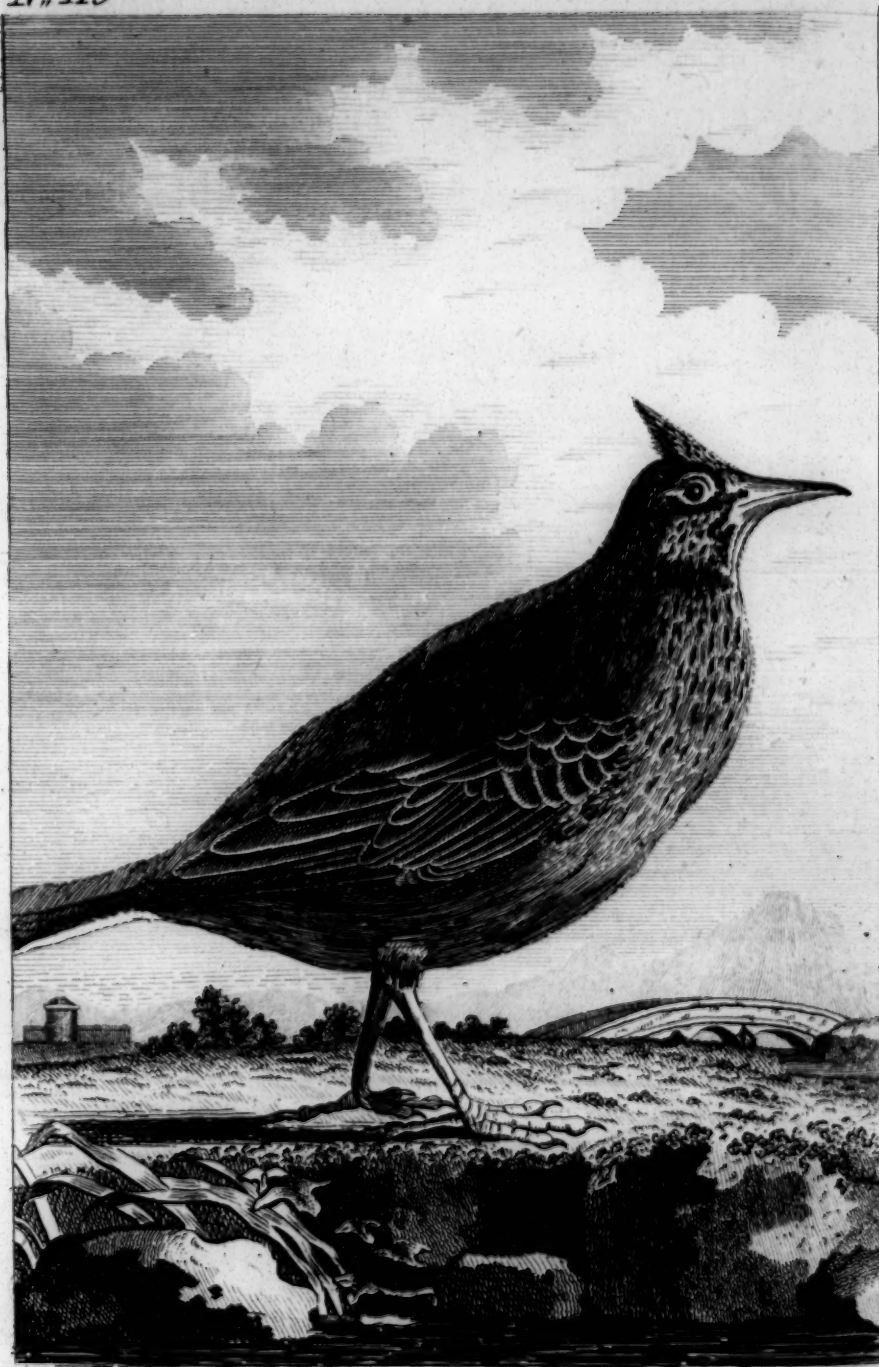
All the upper surface is variegated with shades of brown, rufous, and white; the coverts of the wings, their quills, and those of the tail,

brown edged with whitish, some having a double border, the one whitish and the other rusty; all the inferior part of the body whitish, sprinkled with blackish spots; the bill black, and the feet brown.

Total length, eight inches; the bill, one inch; the *tarsus*, thirteen lines; the hind toe, four lines, and its nail seven lines, straight and pointed; the tail, about two lines and a half, consisting of twelve quills, and projecting eighteen lines beyond the wings.

B¹L

N^o 119



THE CRESTED LARK.

T H E
CRESTED LARK.

Le Cochevis, ou la Grosse Alouette Huppée, *Buff.*

Alauda Cristata, Linn. Gmel. Brun. Kram. Will. Klein. Briss. & Brown.

*Lodola Capelluta, Olin. & Zinn.**

THE crest is, according to Belon, composed of four large feathers; but Olina says there are four or six, and others increase the number even to twelve †. Naturalists agree no better with regard to its position and structure: some assert that it is always erect ‡; others allege that the bird raises or depresses it, con-

* Aristotle calls it Κορυδαλος λοφον εχουσα, i. e. the *Helmet-lark having a crest*. Pliny terms it *Galerita*, and Varro *Galeritus*; both derived from *Galerus*, a *furred cap*, whose primitive is *Galea*, a *helmet*.

In Italian, it has the names *Lodola Capelluta*, *Capelina*, *Covarella*, and *Ciperina*.

In German, it is called *Heide-lerche*, *Baum-lerche*, *Holtz-lerche*, or the *Heath-lark*, the *Tree-lark*, the *Wood-lark*, the *Way-lark*.

In Danish, it is termed *Top-laerke* and *Vei-laerke*.

The French appellation *Cochevis* is a contraction for *Cock-visage*, or *Cock's-face*; because the tuft resembles somewhat a cock's comb.

† Willughby.

‡ Turner.

VOL. V.

F

tracts

tracts or expands it, at pleasure *: nor can we decide whether this difference ought to be imputed to the climate, as Turner hints, or to the age, the sex, or other modifying causes.

The crested lark is a bird of little timidity, says Belon, which seems pleased at the sight of man, and begins to sing when he comes near it. It lives in the meadows and fields, on the sides of ditches and the backs of furrows: it is often seen at the margin of water, and on the high-roads, where it picks its subsistence from the horse-dung, especially in winter. Frisch tells us, that it is found also in the skirts of the woods, perched on a tree; but this seldom occurs, and still more rarely is it discovered in the heart of forests. It sometimes rests on house-tops, the walls of abbeys, &c.

This lark, though not so common as the skylark, is however spread through the most of Europe, if not in the northern parts. It is found in Italy, according to Olina; in France, according to Belon; in Germany, according to Willughby; in Poland, according to Rzaczynski; and in Scotland, according to Sibbald: but I doubt whether it inhabit Sweden, since Linnaeus does not mention it in his *Fauna Suecica*.

The crested lark changes not its abode in winter; but Belon was hasty in suspecting the

* Willughby and Briffon.

text of Aristotle, since it is only said that bird conceals itself in that season, and surely it is less seen in winter than in summer *.

The song of the males is loud, yet so mellow and pleasant, that a sick person can bear it in his chamber †.—In order to make them sing at all times indiscriminately, they are shut up in cages: their warble is ordinarily accompanied by a quivering of the wings. They are the first to hail the return of spring, and to chant the appearance of the morning, particularly when the air is calm and clear; and sometimes they warble during the night ‡: for fine weather exhilarates and inspires congenial notes; but clouds and rain oppress their spirits, and occasion languor and gloomy silence. They generally sing till the end of September.—As these birds are with difficulty habituated to confinement, and as they live only a short time in the cage, it is proper to set them at liberty each year in the end of June, which is the time when they cease to sing; and to trust to the catching of others the following spring. And though the bird be dismissed, its music may be preserved; for, if it be put beside a young sky-lark or a young canary, they will soon learn to imitate it §.

* Φωλεῖ γὰρ . . . καὶ πορυῖτο. *Hist. Anim.* lib. viii. 16.

† *Traité du Serin*, p. 43.

‡ Frisch. § *Idem*.

But besides the excellence of his warble, the male is distinguished by the strength of his bill, the bigness of his head, and by a larger share of black on his breast *. He conducts his amours in the same way as the sky-lark; only, by reason of the smaller numbers, he is obliged to describe a more spacious circle in the air.

The female constructs her nest like the common lark, but ofteneft near the highways: she lays four or five eggs, and takes little concern in hatching them. It is even said that a very moderate warmth, aided by the sun's rays, is sufficient for the purpose †; but after the young are excluded, they awaken her tenderness by their repeated cries, and she then provides for them with a maternal affection till they are flown.

Frisch says, that they breed twice a year, and prefer to nestle in junipers: but this remark is chiefly adapted to the climate of Germany.

The early education of the young succeeds easily, but they are always more difficult to be supported afterwards; and it is uncommon, as I

* Olina.

† As these nests are made on the ground, some ignorant credulous person may have seen a toad beside them, or even on the eggs; and hence the fable, that the crested and some other species of larks entrusted the toads with the business of incubation.

have asserted on the authority of Frisch, to preserve them alive in the cage for a whole year. And even when we give them the food that agrees best with them, which is ants' eggs, ox and sheep's hearts minced down, bruised hempseed and millet, we must be careful, in introducing the little balls into the throat, not to derange the tongue, which might prove fatal.

Autumn is the proper season to lay snares for these birds; and then great numbers in plump condition are caught on the verge of the forests. Frisch observes, that they may be decoyed by the call, which the sky-larks are proof against. The other differences are these: The crested lark never consorts in flocks; its plumage is less varied and more white; its bill is longer, and its tail and wings shorter; it does not mount so high in the air, is less able to struggle with the winds, and returns sooner to the ground. In other properties, the two species are alike, and even with regard to the period of their lives, when not abridged by the constraints of slavery.

Upon the whole, it appears that, of all the larks, the crested, notwithstanding the attachment it is said to shew to man, has the most independent disposition, and recoils from the domestic state. It lives solitary, to escape perhaps the restraints of the social condition.—

90 THE CRESTED LARK.

However, it can forget its native warble*, and is soon taught other airs, which it repeats without blending or confusion†.

In the subject observed by Willughby, the tongue was broad and rather forked, the *cæca* extremely short, and the gall-bladder of a dull blueish green, which that naturalist attributes to some accidental cause.

Aldrovandus gives the figure of an aged crested lark. Its bill was white round the base; the back cinereous; the under side of the body whitish, and also the breast whitish, though dotted with brown; the wings almost entirely white, and the tail black.

The crested lark has other enemies besides man: the smallest of the rapacious birds attack it, and Albertus saw one devoured by a raven. It dreads its ravenous foes so much as to throw itself at the mercy of the fowler, or remain motionless in a furrow till it be caught by the hand.

* The crested lark is the only one perhaps that may be instructed in the space of a month. It repeats an air whistled to it, even when sleeping with its head under its wing; but its voice is very feeble.

† "The crested lark can learn many airs perfectly, which the canary cannot. . . . Besides, it retains nothing of its native warble. . . . And this the canary can never lay aside." *Traité du Serin de Canarie*, p. 43, edit. 1707.

Total

THE CRESTED LARK. 71

Total length, six inches and three quarters; the bill, eight or nine lines; the hind toe with the nail the longest of all, and measuring nine or ten lines; the alar extent, ten or eleven inches; the tail two inches and a quarter, composed of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by thirteen lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Crested Lark, *Alauda Cristata*: "Its tail quills black, the two outermost white at their exterior edge; its head crested; its feet black." Its egg is ash-coloured, with numerous dingy brown spots.

THE
LESSER CRESTED LARK.

Le Lulu, ou la Petite Alouette Huppée.

Alauda Nemorosa, Gmel.

Alauda Cristata Minor, Ray. Will. & Briff.

*Alauda Cristatella, Lath. Ind.**

THE chief difference between this and the preceding consists in its inferior size: its plumage is also lighter; its feet reddish; and its cry, which is disagreeable, is never uttered except when it flies †. It is likewise distinguished by its mimicking oddly the songs of other birds ‡: they are not solitary, but rove through the fields in bodies §: the tuft consists of feathers proportionally longer than in the crested lark ||.

This bird is found in Italy, in Austria, in Poland, in Silesia, and in the northern counties of England, as in Yorkshire, &c. but its name appears not in the catalogue of birds that inhabit Sweden.

* Gefner says that its name *Lulu* is formed in imitation of its cry, *lu, lu, lu*.

† Aldrovandus. ‡ Gefner. § Aldrovandus. || I.

It

It frequents heaths, commons, and even woods, whence the German name *Wald-lerche*: in such situations it builds its nest, and hardly ever among corn.

In the rigours of winter, and particularly when the ground is covered with snow, it resorts to the dunghills, and picks up its food about the barns. It also haunts the highways, and certainly for the same reason.

According to Longolius, it is a bird of passage, which remains in Germany all winter, and leaves that country about the time of the equinox.

Gesner mentions another crested lark, of which he saw only a drawing, and which had only a slight variation of plumage, there being more white round the eyes and the neck, and below the belly. But this might be owing to age, as in the instance of the former article; or it might arise from some accidental cause: the difference is undoubtedly insufficient to constitute a distinct species. I must however observe, that in Gesner's figure the hind nail is not so long as usual in the larks. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Lesser Crested Lark, *Alauda Nemorosa*: "Its tail quills are black, the two outermost white on their exterior edge; its head crested; its feet red." Its egg is light red, with a few ferruginous spots.

THE
UNDATED LARK.

La Coquillade, Buff.
Alauda Undata, Gmel.

THIS is a new species, which M. Guys sent to us from Provence. It appears to be related to the crested lark; for it has a small supine tuft, which it probably can elevate at pleasure. It is properly the bird of the morning, since it begins with the earliest dawn, and seems to rouse the other birds. According to Guys, the male does not leave his mate when she hatches; and when the one is employed in seeking their food, which consists of caterpillars, grasshoppers, and even snails, the other keeps watch, to give the signal when danger threatens.

The throat and all the under side of the body are whitish, with small blackish spots on the neck and breast; the tuft feathers blackish, edged with white; the upper side of the head and body, variegated with blackish and light rufous; the great coverts of the wings tipped with white; the quills of the tail and of the wings, brown edged with light rufous, except some in
the

the wings that are edged or tipped with white: the bill is brown above, and whitish below; the feet yellowish.

Total length, six inches and three quarters; the bill, eleven lines, and pretty strong; the *tarfus*, ten lines; the hind toe, nine or ten lines, the nail (which is eight lines) included; the tail two inches, exceeding the wings seven or eight lines.

Sonnerat brought a lark very like this from the Cape of Good Hope; the only difference being, that it had no crest, that the colour of the under side of its body was more yellowish, and that none of the quills of the tail or wings was edged with white.—It was perhaps a female, or a young bird of the year's hatch.

In Hasselquist's Travels, a Spanish lark is mentioned, which that naturalist saw in the Mediterranean the instant it left the shore; but he takes no farther notice of it, and I can find no species described by authors under that appellation. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Undata*: "Its tail quills are brown, tawny at the edge; its feet yellowish; the feathers of its crest black, edged with white."

FOREIGN BIRD

RELATED TO THE CRESTED LARK.

THE SENEGAL LARK.

La Grifette, ou le Cochevis du Senegal.

Alauda Senegalensis, Gmel.

WE owe to Brisson almost all we know of this foreign bird. It has a sort of tuft, consisting of feathers that are longer than those which cover the rest of the head: it is nearly as large as the sky-lark. It inhabits Africa, and perches on the trees which grow on the banks of the Niger: it is also seen in the island of Senegal. The upper side of its body is variegated with gray and brown; the superior coverts of the tail, rusty gray; the under surface of its body whitish, with small brown spots on the neck; the quills of its wings brown gray, edged with gray; the two middle ones of its tail gray; the lateral ones brown, except the outermost, which is rusty white, and the next, which is edged with the same: the bill is horn colour; the feet and nails gray.

I have seen a female, whose tuft was laid
back

back as that of the male, and variegated, as well as the head and the upper side of the body, with brown streaks on a rusty ground: the rest of the plumage conformed to the preceding description. The bill was longer, and the tail shorter.

Total length, six inches and a half; the bill, nine lines and a half; the alar extent, eleven inches; the hind toe, including the nail, equal to the mid toe; the tail, two inches two lines, rather forked, and consisting of twelve quills; it exceeds the wings by six or seven lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Alauda Senegalensis*: "Its two middle quills are gray, the rest brown; the outermost rufous brown on the exterior side; the head somewhat crested."

THE NIGHTINGALE.

Le Rossignol, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Luscinia, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Luscinia, *Will. Ray. Sibb. Briff. &c.*

Sylvia-Luscinia, *Lath. Ind.**

TO every person whose ear is not totally insensible to melody, the name of nightingale must recall the charms of those soft evenings in spring, when the air is still and serene, and all nature seems to listen to the songster of the grove. Other birds, the larks, the canaries, the chaffinches, the petty-chaps, the linnets, the goldfinches, the blackbirds, the American mocking-birds, excel in the several parts which they perform †: but the nightingale combines

* In Greek, the nightingale has been styled by pre-eminence *Αὐδων*, from *αἰδω*, to sing: in Hebrew, its name is supposed to be *Trachmas*: in Arabic, *Enondon*, *Audon*, *Odorbrion*. Its Latin appellation *Luscinia* is of uncertain derivation; that of *Philomela* is rather poetic, and signifies a lover of song: in Italian, *Rossignuolo*, *Uscignuolo*: in Spanish, *Ruissinol*: in German, *Nachitgal*, *Doerling*, *Tagschläeger*: in Dutch, *Nachtegael*: in Danish, *Nattergal*. The English name is formed from the Saxon word *galan*, to sing.

† “I have happened,” says Mr. Barrington, “to hear the American

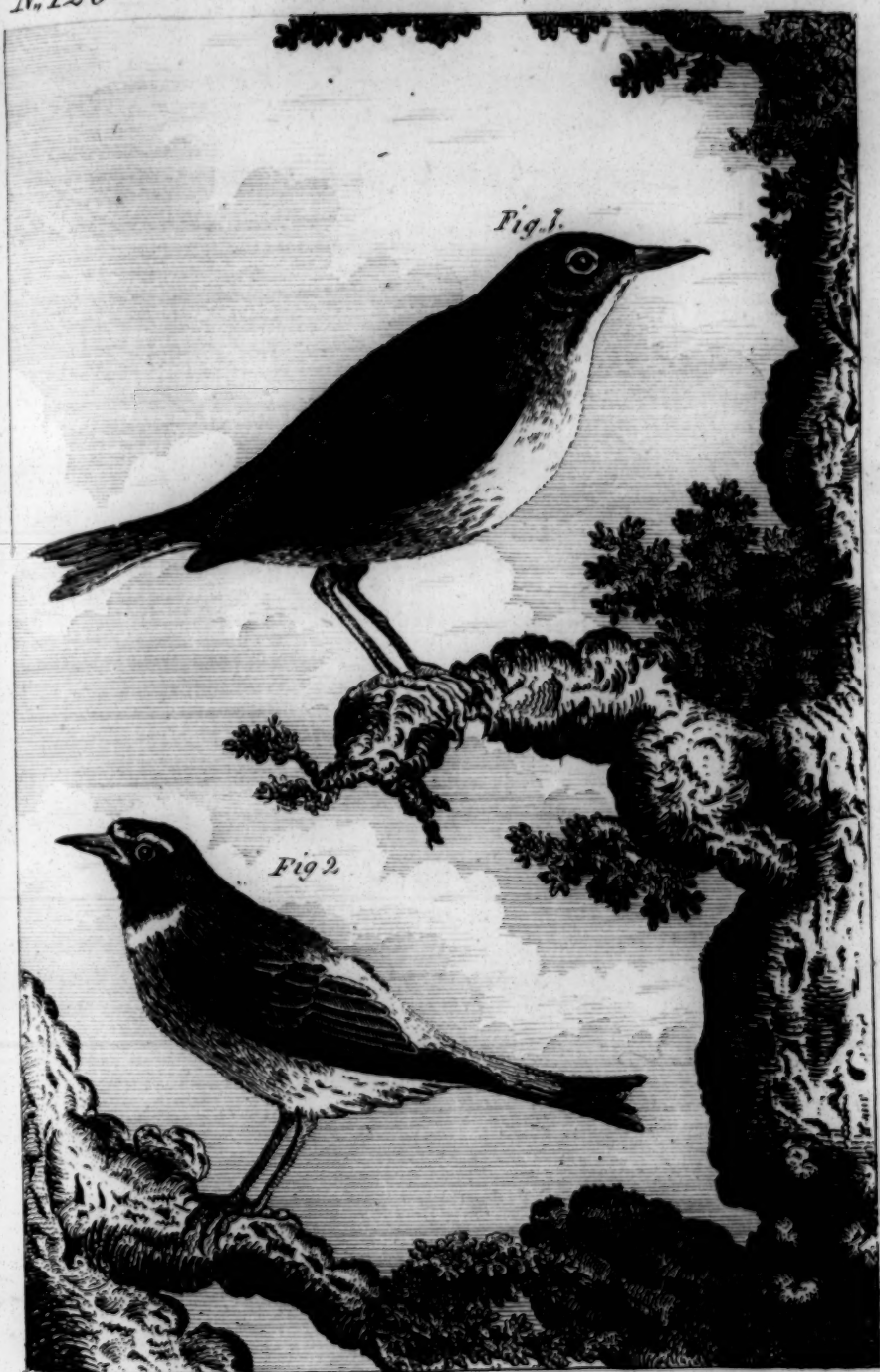


FIG. 1. THE NIGHTINGALE. FIG. 2. THE REDSTART.

B  L

bins the whole, and joins sweetness of tone with variety and extent of execution. His notes assume each diversity of character, and receive every change of modulation ; not a part is repeated without variation ; and the attention is kept perpetually awake, and charmed by the endless flexibility of strains. The leader of the vernal chorus begins the prelude with a low and timid voice, and he prepares for the hymn to nature by essaying his powers and attuning his organs †: by degrees the sound opens and swells ; it bursts with loud and vivid flashes ;

American mocking-bird in great perfection. During the space of a minute, he imitated the wood-lark, chaffinch, blackbird, thrush, and sparrow. I was told also that he would bark like a dog ; so that the bird seems to have no choice in his imitations, though his pipe comes nearest to our nightingale, of any other bird I have met with. Kalm indeed informs us that the natural song is admirable ; but this traveller seems not to have been long enough in America to have distinguished what were the genuine notes : with us, mimics do not often succeed but in imitations. I have little doubt, however, but that this bird would be fully equal to the song of the nightingale in its whole compass ; but then, from the attention which the *mocker* pays to any other sort of disagreeable noises, these capital notes would always be debased by a bad mixture."

Philosoph. Transf. vol. lxiii. p. 2.

† "I have commonly observed," says Mr. Barrington, "that my nightingale began softly, like the ancient orators ; reserving its breath to swell certain notes, which by this means had a most astonishing effect, and which eludes all verbal description."

it

it flows with smooth volubility ; it faints and murmurs ; it shakes with rapid and violent articulations : the soft breathings of love and joy are poured from his inmost soul, and every heart beats unison, and melts with delicious languor. But this continual richness might satiate the ear. The strains are at times relieved by pauses *, which bestow dignity and elevation. The mild silence of evening heightens the general effect, and not a rival interrupts the solemn scene.

The nightingale excels all birds in the softness and mellowness, and also in the duration of its warble, which sometimes lasts without interruption twenty minutes. Barrington reckons sixteen distinct notes between the highest and lowest keys, and finds that its song fills a circle of a mile in diameter, which is equal to the power of the human voice. Mr. J. Hunter discovered that the muscles of the larynx are stronger in this species than in any other, and even that they were strongest in the male, which alone sings.

Aristotle, and after him Pliny, affirms that

* The English bird-catchers, we are told by Mr. Barrington, give these names to some of the nightingale's notes : *Sweet, Sweet jug, Jug sweet, Water bubble, Pipe rattle, Bell pipe, Scroty, Skeg, Skeg, Skeg, Swat swat swaty, Whitlow, whitlow, whitlow*, from some distant affinity to the words.

the song of the nightingale lasts in its full vigour for fifteen days and nights, without intermission, at the time when the trees expand their foliage. But this must be restricted to the wild nightingales, and even these are not always silent before and after the period assigned; indeed, they sing then with most animation and constancy. They generally begin in the month of April, and cease not until June, about the time of the solstice. Their silence is greatest when the young are excluded from the eggs, and absorb their attention in providing food. The tame nightingales sing during six months, and their warble has not only more extent, but is more perfectly formed: whence Barrington infers, that in this species, as well as in many others, the male does not chant with the view of amusing the female, or of relieving the tedium of incubation; a conclusion which is entirely just and well founded. The female hatches from instinct; she is prompted by a passion stronger than love itself; and, in that occupation, she must feel a pleasure, which, though we cannot conceive it, must be exquisite, and needs no solace. The male is the most powerfully stimulated to court the joys of love, and warble his amorous tales; and the opening flush of spring inflames his ardent desires. When the nightingale is confined, his wants are supplied and anticipated, and he enjoys the vernal

mildness through the greater part of the year; every thing concurs to foster his passion, and the melody of his song ceases only for a short interval. Such is also the case with those which are caught after they are grown up; within a few hours they often resume their warble, in all its richness of expression; no longer is it limited by the transient seasons. But the love of liberty is not extinguished in their bosom: for the first week, they can hardly support their forlorn condition; they must be pinioned and fed. However, their passion for warbling in the end surmounts every desponding recollection. The song of other birds, the music of instruments, the accents of a sweet and sonorous voice, powerfully awaken their languid powers. They are eagerly attracted by sweet sounds, and seem particularly fond of *duos*; which shews that they are not insensible to the effects of harmony. But they are not silent auditors; they strike the unison, and strive to eclipse their rivals. It is said that a nightingale dropped dead at the feet of a person who sung; another fretted, swelled its throat, and murmured discontent whenever a canary, which was beside it, began to chant, till at last, by its menaces, it silenced its competitor*.—Real superiority is not always exempt

* *Note of M. de Varicourt, Advocate.* M. le Moine, treasurer of France, at Dijon, who takes pleasure in raising nightin-

exempt from jealousy. May not this desire of excelling be the reason why they choose advantageous situations, and delight to sing to the returning echo?

The nightingales differ much in the quality of their song; in some it is so inferior, that they are reckoned not worth keeping. It is even said, their warble is not the same in every country: the bird-fanciers in England prefer the nightingales of Surry to those of Middlesex; as they value most the chaffinches from Essex, and the goldfinches from Kent. This diversity of song has been properly compared to the different dialects of the same language. It may arise from accidental causes: a nightingale happens to hear the sweet music of some other birds, and, in the glow of emulation, improves his own; he communicates the melody to his young*; and thus it is transmitted, with various alterations, through the succeeding races.

nightingales, remarked also that his pursued bitterly a tame canary, that was kept in the same room, when it approached their cage. But this jealousy turns sometimes into emulation; for nightingales have been observed to sing better than others, merely because they heard birds whose strains were inferior to theirs. *Certant inter se, palamque animosa contentio est: victa morte finit saepe vitam.* Plin. lib. x. 29. They have been imagined to sing duos, with the interval of a third.

* Pliny relates, that the parent is careful in instructing his young. Lib. x. 29. & lib. iv. 9.

After the month of June, the nightingale's warble is gone; a raucous croaking remains, and the sweet Philomela is no longer recognized. No wonder that, in ancient Italy, it then received another name *. In regard to song, it is quite a different bird, and even the colours of its plumage are somewhat altered.

In the nightingales, as in other species, there are females which enjoy some prerogatives of the male, and particularly participate of his song. I saw a female of that sort which was tame; her warble resembled that of the male, yet neither so full nor so varied: she retained it until spring, when, resuming the character of the sex, she exchanged it for the occupation of building her nest and laying her eggs, though she had no mate. It would seem that in warm countries, as in Greece, such females are pretty common, both in this species, and many others at least this is implied in a passage of Aristotle †.

A musician, says Frisch, ought to study the song of the nightingale, and write it. This is what the jesuit Kircher formerly attempted, and which has been lately tried by Barrington.

* Aristotle, *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49.

† "Some males sing like their females, as appears in the genus of the nightingales; but the female gives over song when she hatches." *Hist. Anim.* lib. iv. 9.

The enthusiasts of music imagine, that the song of the nightingale contributes more than warmth to quicken the chick in the egg.

Yet

Yet the latter owns that he could not succeed ; for though the notes were played by an excellent performer on the flute, they bore no resemblance to the nightingale's warble. Mr. Barrington suspects the difficulty to arise from the impossibility of marking the musical intervals. Their measures are so varied, their transitions so insensibly blended, the succession of their tones so wild and irregular as to soar beyond every constraint of method : but still more difficult it would be, to imitate with a dead instrument the expression of the nightingale, his tender sighs, and his melting accents. The animated organ of voice can alone aspire to the music of nature ; and the rare accomplishment of a soft, clear, flexible, sonorous tone, of a delicate and discerning ear, and of an exquisite sensibility, will sometimes succeed. I knew two persons, who, though they had not noted a single bar, imitated the whole extent of the nightingale's warble, and so accurately as to deceive the hearer : they were two men, who rather whistled than sung : the one whistled so softly, that it was impossible to perceive the motion of his lips ; the other blew with more force, and his attitude was somewhat constrained, though his imitation was still perfect. A few years ago, there was a man at London who attracted the nightingales with his song ; insomuch that they alighted on

him, and allowed themselves to be caught by the hand*.

But though few can imitate the nightingale, every person is eager to enjoy its song. It is a domestic of a capricious humour, which neither cheerfulness nor affection can direct. It must be treated with tenderness, and supplied abundantly with the food it likes: the walls should be painted with verdure, and shaded and enriched with foliage; moss should be strewed beneath its feet; it must be guarded against cold, and from troublesome visits†; and every illusion must be employed to dispel the gloom of captivity. Such precautions will succeed. If an old one is caught in the beginning of spring, it will sing in seven or eight days, or even sooner‡, and will renew its warble every year, in the month of May and the end of December. If young ones of the first hatch are educated, they will begin to chant as soon as they can eat by themselves; their voice will rise and form by degrees, and attain its full perfection about the

* *Annual Register*, for 1764. *Aldrovandus*, p. 783.
 “There are persons, who, putting water into transverse reeds, and blowing into an aperture, imitate the sound perfectly.” *Pliny*, lib. x. 29.

† It is even recommended to clean it seldom when it sings.

‡ Those which are taken after the 15th of May sing seldom the rest of the season. Those which sing not in a fortnight will never sing, and are often females.

end

end of December. Their warble is much superior to that of the wild nightingales, and will flow each day of the year, except in the season of moulting. They will appropriate the notes of other birds, through imitation or rivalry*, and they will even chant the stiff airs of a nightingale-pipe. They may be instructed even to sing by turns with a chorus, and repeat their couplet at the proper time. They may be also taught to speak any language. The sons of the emperor Claudius had some nightingales that spoke Greek and Latin†. But what Pliny subjoins is more marvellous; that these birds prepared every day new expressions, and even of considerable length, with which they entertained their masters‡. The arts of flattery might work upon the understandings of young princes; but a philosopher like Pliny ought not to have credited such a story, nor have published it under the sanction of his name. Several authors accordingly, resting on the authority of the Roman naturalist, have amplified the marvellous tale. Gesner, among others, quotes a letter from a person of credit (as we shall find), who mentions two nightingales belonging to an inn-keeper at Ratisbon which passed the night dis-

* Pliny, lib. iv. 9. & lib. x. 29.

† Pliny, lib. x. 42.

‡ These young princes were Drusus and Britannicus.

courfing in German on the political interefls of Europe; on the events already happened, and on thofe which might be expected, and which actually took place. It is true that the author of the letter endeavours to render the ftory more probable, by telling us that the birds only repeated what they heard of fome officers, or deputies from the Diet, who frequented the tavern; but ftill the whole is fo abfurd as to merit no ferious refutation.

I have faid that the old prifoners had two feafons for finging; the months of May and December. But here art interferes, and again diverts the courfe of nature. The chamber is darkened, and the birds are filent. If the light be reftored by degrees, it will produce the effect of fpring, and the nightingales will refume their warble. If we have a fufficient number of old fingers, we may, by fucceffive manœuvres, and by haftening or retarding the time of moulting, be entertained with continual melody. Some of the young birds which are raifed, fmg during the night; but moft of them begin to chant at eight or nine of the morning, in the winter folftice, and gradually earlier as the days lengthen.

One would hardly believe that a fmg fo varied as that of the nightingale is confined within the narrow limits of a fmgle octave; yet this is afcertained by an obferver of information

mation and taste*. He remarks indeed, that some tones shoot like a gleam to the second octave; but these are accidental, and occasioned by violent efforts of voice, as when a person happens to blow into a flute with excessive force, he produces sounds uncommonly shrill.

Though slow in acquiring it, the nightingale is susceptible of an unshaken attachment. It distinguishes the step of its master, and welcomes his approach with the music of joy; and even in the moulting season, it idly strains its enfeebled organs to express the warmth of its heart. Sometimes it dies of melancholy at the loss of its benefactor; and, if it survives the shock, it is tardy in forming new attachments †.—Such is even the case with shy and timid characters; their intimacies are slow and difficult, but, once established, they are ardent and durable.

The nightingales are also very solitary; they migrate alone, appearing in April and May, and retiring in September ‡. The union between the sexes in the spring seems to increase their aversion to society: they select certain

* Dr. Remond, who has translated several pieces of the *Collection Academique*.

† M. le Moine.

‡ In Italy, they arrive in March and April, and retire about the beginning of November. In England, they arrive in April and May, and retire in the month of August.

tracts, and oppose the encroachments of others on their territories. But this conduct is not occasioned by rivalry, as some have supposed; it is suggested by the solicitude for the maintenance of their young, and regulated by the extent of ground necessary to afford sufficient food. The distances between their nests are much smaller in the rich counties, than in others which reluctantly yield a penurious supply.

They begin to build their nest about the end of April, or the opening of May. The materials are leaves, rushes, stalks of coarse grass, and the inside is lined with small fibres and roots, horse-hair, and a sort of bur. They are placed in a favourable aspect, turned somewhat to the east, near water, and commonly on the lowest branches of shrubs, as gooseberries, white thorns, sloes, elm-hedges, &c. or in a tuft of grass, and even on the ground under bushes. And hence their eggs and their young, and sometimes the mother, are often devoured by dogs, foxes, pole-cats, weasels, adders, &c.

In our climate, the female usually lays five eggs*, of an uniform greenish brown, except that the brown predominates at the obtuse end, and the green at the acute. She hatches alone, and never leaves her station but for food, and

* Aristotle says five or six; which may be true in the warm climate of Greece.

then only in the evening, and when hard pressed with hunger: during her absence, the male seems to cast an eye on the nest. In eighteen or twenty days the young begin to burst their shells, and the number of the cock birds is generally double that of the hens. And hence, when in April a cock is caught, the hen soon finds another mate, the loss of which is supplied by a third, and so on; inasmuch that the successive seizure of three or four males has little effect on the multiplication of the brood. The hen disgorges the food for the young, as in the canaries; and the cock assists. He now ceases to warble, and is totally absorbed in the concerns of his family: and even during incubation, it is said, he seldom sings near the nest, lest he discover it; but if a person approach it, his paternal solicitude drowns the suggestions of prudence, and his shrieks only increase the danger.—In less than a fortnight the young are fledged, and at this time we ought to remove those intended to be trained. After they are flown, the parents make a second hatch, and then a third; but the last fails, if the cold sets in early. In hot countries, they breed even four times annually; but the late hatches are always more scanty.

Man, who is never satisfied till he can use and abuse what he possesses, has contrived to make the nightingales breed in their prison.

The

The great obstacle to his plans was their ardent love of liberty; but he has diverted this original bent by fostering more violent passions, the impulse for propagation, and the attachment to offspring. A pair of nightingales are let loose into a large volary, or rather in a corner of a garden planted with ivy, horn-beams, and other shrubs, and inclosed with nets. This is the easiest and surest method; but there is another which also may be employed. The cock and hen are put into separate cages in a darkish closet, and are fed every day at the same hours; the cages are sometimes left open, that they may become acquainted with their apartment, and in April they are entirely opened, and not shut again; at which time the birds are supplied with the materials usual for constructing their nests, such as oak-leaves, moss, plucked dog-grass, deer's wool, horse-hairs, earth and water; but the water must be removed when the female hatches*. A contrivance has also been used to settle nightingales in places which they never visited: the brood are caught with the parent birds, and conveyed to a spot which resembles most their former haunt: the cock and hen are placed in two cages near the nest of young, and

* *Traité du Rossignol*, p. 96.

the cages are artfully opened while the person remains concealed: the parents run to the cries of their nestlings, and foster and continue to educate them: and it is said they will return to the same part the succeeding year *; but it must afford them conveniences and proper food †.

If a person would raise young nightingales, he should prefer those of the first hatch, and give them what instructors he thinks proper; but the best, in my opinion, are other nightingales, especially the best singers.

In the month of August, both the old and young nightingales emerge from the woods, and haunt the bushes, the quick-set hedges, and the new-ploughed fields, where they find greater plenty of worms and insects: perhaps this general movement is only preparatory to their approaching flight. They winter not in France, nor in England, Germany, Italy, Greece, &c. ‡; and as we are assured that no nightingales occur in Africa §, they would seem to retire into

* *Traité du Rossignol*, p. 96.

† "When a place affords abundance of food and convenience for nestling, one had better catch or destroy the nightingales, since others will always return." *Frisch*.

‡ The nightingale disappears in autumn, and appears not again till spring, says Aristotle. *Hist. Anim.* lib. v. 9.

§ *Traité du Rossignol*, p. 21. Indeed the voyager Le Marie speaks of a nightingale at Senegal, but which sings not so well as ours.

Asia *. And this opinion is the more probable, as they inhabit Persia, China, and even Japan, where they are highly esteemed, since the fine warblers are sold, it is said, for twenty cobangs †. They are spread generally through Europe, even to Sweden and Siberia ‡, where they chant delightfully; but there are countries in Europe, as well as in Asia, which are not suited to them, and where they never fix their abode: for instance, in Bugey as far as the heights of Nantua; a part of Holland, Scotland, Ireland §, the northern part of Wales, and even of all England except Yorkshire ||; the territory of the Daulians

* Olina. They are found among the willows and olives of Judea. *Hasselquist*.

† Kæmpfer. The cobang is equal to forty taels, and the tael worth about half a crown; so that the twenty cobangs amount to an hundred pounds sterling. Nightingales were much dearer in Rome, as we shall see in the article of the white nightingale.

‡ Gmelin speaks with raptures of the charming banks of a rivulet in Siberia, called *Bereffouka*, and of the warble of the birds heard there, among which the nightingale holds the first rank.

§ Aldrovandus. I know that the fact has been doubted with regard to Ireland, Scotland, and Holland; but these assertions must not be strictly interpreted. No more is meant than that the nightingales are extremely rare in those countries; and the case must be so where there are few woods or bushes, little heat, few insects, few fine nights, &c.

|| Mr. Pennant's words are these: "It is not found in North Wales; or in any of the English counties north of it, except

Daulians near Delphi; the kingdom of Siam, &c.* They are universally known to be birds of passage, and those which are confined appear impatient and restless in the spring and autumn, especially during the night, their usual periods of migration: a proof that their peregrinations are occasioned by incitements very different from the want of food, or the desire of warmth.

This bird is peculiar to the old continent; and though the missionaries and voyagers speak of the nightingales of Canada, that of Louisiana, that of the Antilles, &c. the latter is only a kind of mocking-bird; and that of Louisiana is the same, since, according to Dupratz, it is found in Martinico and Guadaloupe; and it is manifest, from Father Charlevoix's account, that the one of Canada is either not a nightingale at all, or is of a very degenerate sort †. It is indeed possible that the nightingale, which

except Yorkshire, where they are met with in great plenty about Doncaster. It is also remarkable, Mr. Pennant adds, that this bird does not migrate so far west as Cornwall; a county where the seasons are so mild, that myrtles flourish in open air during the whole year." T.

* Voyages de Struys, t. i. p. 53.

† "The Canada nightingale," says this missionary, "is nearly the same with respect to figure, but has not half the song." *Nouvelle France*, t. iii. p. 157.

visits the northern parts of Europe and Asia, may have traversed the narrow seas, which, at those high latitudes, divide the two continents; or it might have been swept across by a violent wind, or carried by some ship: and as the cold, raw, unfertile state* of the country has been found to be unfavourable to the song of birds, it would lose the sweetness of its melody, as the nightingale's warble in Scotland † is inferior to what is heard in the groves of Italy. This seems to have been really the case; and our nightingale has been transplanted into Canada; for the imperfect account of Charlevoix has since been confirmed by a physician ‡ residing at Quebec, and by some travellers.

As these birds, at least the males, pass the nights of spring in singing, the ancients believed that during that season they never slept §;

* I know that there are many insects in America; but most of them are so large and so well armed, that the nightingale, far from preying upon them, would scarcely be able to defend himself against their attacks.

† Aldrovandus, who cites Petrus Apponensis. This bird must sometimes, therefore, appear in Scotland.

‡ This physician wrote to M. Salerne, that our nightingale is found in Canada, as well as here, in the season. It occurs also in Gaspesia, according to Father Le Clerc, but does not sing so well.

§ Hesiod and Ælian.

and

and hence they inferred that the flesh had a soporific quality, and imagined that its heart and eyes laid under a person's head would keep him awake. This notion spread; and being transferred into the arts, the nightingale became the emblem of vigilance. But the moderns, who have observed with greater accuracy, find that in the season of love the nightingales sleep during the day, and that in winter their diurnal slumbers precede the resuming of their warble. They even dream, and their visions have the complexion of their character*; for they hum their airs with a low voice.—Many fables have been propagated with regard to the nightingale, as usual with whatever is celebrated. In the midst of its warble, it is attracted by the fixed looks of a viper, or, according to others, of a toad, and is gradually deprived of its voice; and at last, yielding to the fascination, it sinks into the open mouth of the reptile. It has been said that the parents select from their young those which discover talents, and either destroy the rest, or allow them to perish of want. (We must suppose that they save the females.) It has been alleged that they chant better when persons listen to them than when alone. All these errors originate from our proneness to ascribe to animals our own weaknesses, passions, and vices.

* *Traité du Rossignol.*

Nightingales that are kept in the cage commonly bathe after singing. Hebert remarks, that this is the first thing they do in the evening, when the candles are lighted. He also tells a circumstance which it may be proper to guard against, that they are apt to dart towards the flame; and that an excellent cock bird, happening to escape from the cage, flew into the fire, and was burnt to death.

These birds have a sort of vibrating motion, and by turns raise and depress their body. All the males which I have seen had this singular property; but I could not perceive it in a female which I kept two years. In all of them, the tail oscillates distinctly upwards and downwards; which has manifestly induced Linnæus to range them with the *motacillæ*, or wagtails.

Nightingales hide themselves in the thickest bushes: they live upon aquatic and other insects, small worms, the eggs, or rather nymphs, of ants; they also eat figs, berries, &c. But as it would be difficult always to provide such food, several kinds of paste have been contrived, which agree very well with them. I shall, in the notes, give the receipt of a bird-fancier of my acquaintance *, because
it

* M. Le Moine, whom I have already quoted on several occasions, gives different pastes, according to the age of the bird.

it has been found to answer, and I have seen a nightingale which with this subsistence reached the age of seventeen years. It began to turn gray the seventh year; at fifteen, its wing and tail quills were entirely white; its legs, or rather *tarfus*, had much swelled, by the excessive growth of the scales which cover these parts; and it had a sort of knots at the toes, like persons who are gouty; and it was necessary, from time to time, to whet the point of its upper mandible*. But still it had none of the ills of old age; it was ever joyous, and warbled as in its earlier years, and caressed the hand that fed

bird. The first is composed of sheep's heart, crumbs of bread, hemp-seed, and parsley well pounded, and mixed: it must be new-made every day. The second consists of equal parts hashed omelet and bread-crumbs, with a little chopped parsley. The third is more compound, and requires more care. Take two pounds of lean beef, half a pound of chicken-pease, as much of yellow or peeled millet, of the seed of white poppy, and of sweet almonds, a pound of white honey, two ounces of flour, twelve yolks of fresh eggs, two or three ounces of fresh butter, and a gros and a half of saffron in powder; dry the whole well; heat it a long time, stirring it constantly, and reduce it to a very fine dust, and pass it through a silk sieve. This powder keeps very well, and serves about a year.

* The nails also of nightingales that are kept in the cage grow much at first, so as to become troublesome from their excessive length. I have seen some which formed a circle of five lines diameter. But in extreme age they disappear almost entirely.

it. We may remark, that this nightingale had never paired. Love seems to abridge the period of life; but it fills up the void of time, and accomplishes the intention of nature. Without it the delightful emotions of the parent would never be known: it prolongs the existence into futurity, and confers immortality on the species. So rich the compensation it makes for the loss of a few days of injoyous and decrepit old age!

It has been found, that heating medicines and perfumes incited the nightingales to warble; that flour mites and dung maggots were the most proper to give when they were too fat, and figs when too lean; and that spiders served them as a purge. It has been recommended to make them take this purge once a year; a dozen spiders is the proper dose. They should also have nothing that is salt.

When they swallow any indigestible substance, they regorge it in little pellets like the birds of prey; and indeed, though they are small, they merit that appellation. Belon admires *their foresight in not swallowing a small worm before they have killed it*; but it is probable that they only want to avoid the painful feeling which living creatures might occasion in their stomach.

All sorts of snares succeed with the nightingale; they are not shy, though rather timorous.

If

If they be let loose in a place where there are other birds in cages, they fly directly towards these; and this is one method among many others of catching them. The song of their companions, the sound of musical instruments, or of a fine voice, as we have already seen, and even cries that are disagreeable, as the mewling of a cat fastened to the root of a tree and teased on purpose, succeed equally well. They have a stupid staring curiosity, and are the dupes of every thing*. They are caught by the call, by lime-twigs in tit-mice traps, and nooses set where the ground is newly ploughed†, where are previously scattered the nymphs of ants, mites, or whatever resembles these, as small bits of the whites of hard eggs, &c. The gins ought to be made of silk strings, and not of packthread, which would entangle their feathers, and occasion a loss of some, that would retard their song. On the contrary, to hasten their moulting, a few feathers should be plucked from the tail, that the new ones may sprout

* *Avis miratrix*, says Linnæus.

† Sometimes they are very numerous in a single district. Belon witnessed that, in a village of the forest of Ardenne, the shepherd boys caught every day each a score, with many other small birds. It was a year of drought, and all the "pools," says Belon, "were elsewhere dried up . . . for they live then in the forests, where there is some moisture."

the sooner; for while nature is employed in the reproduction of the plumage, she suspends the song.

These birds are delicious food when fat, and in this respect they rival the ortolans. In Gascony, they are fatted for the table. This reminds us of the whim of the Emperor Heliogabalus, who ate the tongues of nightingales, of peacocks, &c. and the famous dish of the comedian Æsop, which consisted of an hundred birds, all noted for their song or their prattle*.

As it is a matter of some consequence not to lose time in breeding females, many marks have been given to distinguish the cocks. Their eye, it is said, is larger, their head rounder, their bill longer, and broader at the base, especially if viewed from below; the higher plumage more coloured, the belly not so white, the tail more feathered, and broader when displayed: they begin sooner to chirp, and their chirp is better supported: their anus is more prominent in the love season, and they remain long in one place, resting on one foot, while the hen runs backwards and forwards in the cage. Others add, that the male has two or three quills

* Pliny, lib. x. 51. This dish was valued at six hundred *sesterces* (near *five thousand pounds*!). Aldrovandus also ate nightingales, and found them good.

in each wing whose outer surface is black, and their legs, if viewed in a side light, appear reddish, while those of the female look whitish: however, the hen has the same motion of the tail; and, when cheerful, she does not walk, but hops like the cock. To these we may join the more decisive differences of internal structure. The males which I dissected in the spring had two very large testicles of an egg shape; the largest of the two (for they were not equal) was three lines and a half in length, and two in breadth: the *ovaria* of the females which I observed at the same time contained eggs of different sizes, from a quarter of a line to one line in diameter.

The plumage of this bird is much inferior to its warble. All the upper side of the body is brown, more or less rusty; the throat, breast and belly are of a white gray; the fore part of the neck, of a deeper gray; the inferior coverts of the tail and wings, rusty white and of a ferruginous cast in the males; the quills of the wings, of a brownish gray verging on rufous, and the tail of a brown tinged more with rufous: the bill is brown, and also the feet, but with a shade of flesh colour: the ground colour of the feathers is deep cinereous.

It has been alleged, that the nightingales bred in the southern climates have a darker

plumage, and those raised in the northern countries a whiter. The young cocks are also said to be whiter than young hens; and in general the colour of the young ones is the most variable before moulting, that is, before the end of July; and it is then so like that of the redstart, that it would be difficult to distinguish them unless by the difference of their chirping *: accordingly these two species are related †.

Total length, six inches and a quarter; the bill, eight lines, yellow within, and having a large opening; the edges of the upper mandible scalloped near the point; the *tarsus*, an inch; the outer toe connected to the middle one at its base; the nails slender, the hind one the strongest; the alar extent, nine inches; the tail thirty lines, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings sixteen lines.

Intestinal tube, from the stomach to the anus, seven inches and a quarter; the *œsophagus* near two inches, and dilating into a sort of glandulous sac before its insertion into the gizzard, which is muscular, and occupies the left side of the lower belly, and not covered by the intestines, but only by a lobe of the liver: there

* The young cock nightingale calls *zifera*, *zifera*, according to Olina; *croi*, *croi*, according to others. Each person has his manner of hearing and expressing these indeterminate sounds, which are themselves so variable.

† It is even said that they breed together.

are two exceeding small *cæca*, and a gall bladder : the tip of the tongue is furnished with threads, and truncated, which was known to the ancients *; and seems to have given rise to the fable of Philomela, whose tongue was cut out. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Nightingale, *Motacilla Luscinia* : "It is rufous cinereous, its braces cinereous."

VARIETIES of the NIGHTINGALE.

I. THE GREAT NIGHTINGALE †. It is certain that of nightingales there are varieties ; but naturalists are much divided in regard to the haunts of the large kind of these birds, whether they frequent the plains, or the margin of waters. Schwenckfeld asserts that the small ones settle on the pleasant knolls : Aldrovandus says, that they live in the woods : others, on the con-

* Aristotle, *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 15. We must observe that, according to the Greeks, who are here the original authors, it was Progne that was metamorphosed into a nightingale, and Philomela, her sister, into a swallow. The Latin writers transposed or confounded the names, which has given currency to the error.

† *Luscinia Major*, *Briss.*
Slowick Wickfzy, *Rzacynski.*
Grosse Nachtigalle, *Schwenckf.*
Sprofs-Vogel, *Frisch.*

trary,

trary, maintain with more probability, that such as inhabit the dry forests which exclude the rain and the dew, are the smallest sort. In Anjou, there is a kind of nightingales which are much larger than ordinary, and which lodge and nestle among the hornbeams; and the little ones prefer the sides of rivulets and pools. Frisch speaks also of a breed somewhat larger than the common sort, and which sing more in the night, and in a manner rather different. Lastly, the author of the treatise on the nightingale admits three kinds; the largest, strongest, and best singers lodge among the bushes near water; the middle-sized live in the plains; and the smallest dwell in the mountains. From all this it appears that there is one or more breeds of large nightingales, but they are attached to a very permanent abode. The large nightingale is the most common in Silesia; its plumage is cinereous with a mixture of rufous, and it is reckoned a better singer than the small kind.

II. THE WHITE NIGHTINGALE*. This variety was very rare at Rome. Pliny relates, that a present was made of one to Agrippina, wife of the Emperor Claudius, which cost 6000 sesterces†; valued by Budé at 15,000 crowns

* *Luscinia Candida*, *Briff.*

† Pliny, *Hist. Nat.* lib. x. 29.

in his time, and which must be equal to double that sum at present. Aldrovandus however asserts, that there is some mistake in the figures, and that the amount is still greater. That author saw a white nightingale, but mentions no particulars with regard to it. The Marquis d'Argence has one of this colour at present, which though young is very large, and its warble formed, but not so powerful as that of the old ones. "Its head and neck," says the Marquis, "are of the finest white; its wings and tail of the same colour: the feathers on the middle of the back are of a very light brown, and intermixed with small white feathers . . . those under the belly are of a white gray. This stranger seemed to cause wonderful jealousy in an old nightingale which I have had for some time."

FOREIGN BIRD

RELATED TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

THE FOUDI-JALA.

*Motacilla Madagascariensis, Gmel.**Sylvia Madagascariensis, Lath. Ind.**Luscinia Madagascariensis, Briss.*The Madagascar Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS nightingale, which is found in Madagascar, is of the same size with ours, and resembles it in many respects; only its legs and wings are shorter, and the colours of its plumage different. Its head is rufous, with a brown spot on each side; its throat white; its breast light rufous; its belly brown, tinged with rufous and olive; all the upper part of its body, including what appears of the wing and tail quills, of an olive brown; its bill, and feet, deep brown. Brisson, who first described this species, mentions not whether it sings; unless we suppose that the name of nightingale is alone sufficient to mark that faculty.

Total length, six inches five lines; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, nine lines and a half; the

the alar extent, eight inches and a half; the tail, two inches and a half, composed of twelve quills, somewhat tapering, and exceeding the wings by twenty lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Madagascariensis*:
 "It is greenish, below whitish; its throat and anus yellow; its eye-lids white."

THE
FAUVETTE.

FIRST SPECIES.

Motacilla-Hippolais, *Linn.*

Curruca, *Briff.*

The Pettychaps, *Lath.*

IN the dreary season of winter, nature sinks into inactivity and torpor. The insects no more appear; the reptiles cease to crawl; the vegetables are stripped of their verdure, and arrested in their growth; the inhabitants of the air have perished, or retired to happier climes; those of the waters are confined to their icy prisons, and most of the land animals have repaired to their caves and subterraneous mansions; the whole is a boundless picture of desolation, and languor, and death. The vernal appearance of the feathered visitors of the grove proclaims the return of animation and of joy. Nature awakens from her lethargy, and resumes her enlivening powers. The trees spread their leafy shade; the vegetable tribes glow with their richest tints; the scene smiles around, it warbles



THE PET TYCHAPS.

B  L

warbles on every spray, and a genial flush heightens the whole.

Of the joyous guests of the woods, the fau-vettes are the most numerous and the most charming: lively and volatile, each motion is expressive, each accent is cheerful, and each gesture displays the tenderness of love. These pretty warblers arrive when the trees put forth their leaves, and begin to expand their blossoms; they disperse through the whole extent of our plains: some inhabit our gardens, others prefer the clumps and avenues; some conceal themselves among the reeds, and many retire to the heart of large woods. Thus the fau-vettes are dispersed through every spot, and their sprightly movements, and their cheerful airs, enchant each scene *.

Possessed of every grace and elegance, beauty alone was wanted to perfection. But nature has here checked her profusion, and withheld decoration. Their plumage is dull and obscure, except in two or three species, which are slightly spotted: all the rest are stained with dark shades of whitish, gray, and rusty.

The first species, which is the pettychaps,

* "In summer, a person cannot walk into any shady spot beside brooks, but he will hear the fau-vettes warbling even at the distance of a quarter of a league: this bird is known therefore in all countries." *Belon.*

is of the size of the nightingale. The robe of the nightingale is brown rufous, that of the pettychaps is brown-gray: it is also lightly tinged with rusty gray, on the fringe of the coverts of the wings, and along the webs of the small quills: the large quills are of a blackish cinereous; and so are also the quills of the tail, of which the two outermost are white on their exterior side, and at the tips on both sides: over the eye there extends, from the bill, a white line like an eyebrow; and under the eye, and a little behind, there is a blackish spot; and this spot borders with the white on the throat, which has a rusty cast on the sides, of a deeper colour under the belly.

This is the largest of all the fauvettes, except the Alpine warbler, of which we shall treat in the sequel. Its total length is six inches; its alar extent, eight inches ten lines; its bill, from the tip to the angles, eight lines and a half; its tail, two inches six lines; its foot, ten lines.

It lives with other smaller species in gardens, in thickets, and in fields of pease and beans: they all sit on the stakes which prop these; and there they frolic, build their nest, and continually go out and in, till harvest, which precedes their departure, forces them from this asylum, or rather this abode of love.

It is amusing to see them play together, grow angry, and chase each other: their attacks are gentle,

gentle, and their quarrels commonly end in songs. The pettychaps was regarded as the emblem of volatile amours, as the turtle was the image of ardent and steady love ; yet the pettychaps, though lively and joyous, maintains a faithful and strong attachment, while the turtle, all sad and plaintive, infringes shamefully on the connubial rights. The male of the pettychaps lavishes a thousand little offices on his mate during incubation ; he shares with her the solicitude for their tender young, and does not abandon her after the education of their family : his attachment outlives the appetite of fruition.

The nest is composed of dry herbs and stalks of hemp, and lined with a little hair. It contains commonly five eggs, which the mother deserts if they are touched : this approach of an enemy she regards as a bad omen for the expected family. Nor is it possible to deceive her with the eggs of other birds. " I have often set strange eggs under several small birds," says Viscount Querhoënt ; " those of the titmice under wrens, those of the linnet under the red-breast : but I could never make the fauvettes hatch them ; they always broke them ; and, when I substituted other young ones, they soon killed them." From what wonderful instinct, if we believe the bulk of bird-catchers, and even of observers, do the pettychaps hatch the egg which the cuckoo drops into their nest after

destroying their own ; and how can they foster the little ugly usurper as their own progeny. However, it is the babbling fauvette or warbler to which this trust is the oftenest committed and perhaps that species has different instincts. —The pettychaps is of a timid character ; it flies from birds as small as itself, and with better reason it makes a rapid retreat from the shrike, its formidable enemy : but the danger is forgotten the moment it is past, and the little warbler again resumes its cheerfulness, and frisks, and sings. It is heard in the thickest boughs, where it is generally concealed ; at times it pops out to the edge of a bush, but hides itself again in an instant, particularly in the heat of the day. In the morning it gathers the dew ; and, after the fall of a summer's shower it trips among the wet leaves, and brushes off the drops.

Almost all the fauvettes retire at the same time, in the middle of autumn, and scarcely any remain in October. Their departure precedes the cold weather, which destroys the insects, and blasts the small fruits, on which they subsist ; for they not only catch flies, and gnats and search for worms, but they eat the berries of ivy, mezereon, and brambles : they grow fat during the maturity of the elders, dwarf elder and privets.

The bill is slightly scalloped near the point

the tongue is fringed at the tip, and appears forked: the inside of the bill is yellow at the bottom, and black towards the extremity: the gizzard is muscular, and preceded by a dilatation of the *œsophagus*: the intestines are seven inches and a half long: there is generally no gall bladder, but two small *cæca*: the outer toe is connected to the middle one by the first *phalanx*, and the outer nail is the strongest of all. The testicles in a male caught the 18th of June were five inches lengthwise, and the smaller diameter four inches. A female was dissected on the fourth of the same month, and the oviduct was much dilated, and contained an egg, and the *ovarium* presented a cluster of unequal sizes.

In the southern provinces of France, and in Italy, most of the fauvelles are called epicurean warblers (*bec-figues*); an error to which the nomenclators with their generic term *ficedula* have not a little contributed. Aldrovandus gives a confused and incomplete account of the species comprehended; and he seems not sufficiently acquainted with them. Frisch remarks, that the genus of the fauvelles is the most obscure and indetermined in the whole of ornithology. We have endeavoured to throw on it some light, by following the order of nature. All our descriptions, except that of a single species, have been drawn from life; and it is from our own observations, and from the facts communi-

cated by intelligent observers, that we have delineated the distinctions and the similitudes and the habits which obtain among these little birds. [A]

[A] Nothing can exceed the confusion which nomenclators have introduced into the article of the pettychaps, or fauvette. Gmelin and Latham have transferred the Greek name, *hippolais*, which Linnæus had injudiciously applied to that bird, and have bestowed it on another bird about one third of the size; and at the same time they have given the pettychaps, or fauvette, the epithet *hortensis*. Yet while these two authors agree in the application of the terms, the one asserts that the *motacilla hortensis* is larger than the redpole or black-cap, but the other represents it as smaller than even the linnet. It will be unnecessary therefore to translate the specific characters. The *motacilla-hippolais* of Gmelin, or the lesser pettychaps of Latham, is said to build in the hedges near the ground; its egg white, sprinkled with numerous minute red specks.

THE

PASSERINETTE, OR LITTLE FAU-
VETTE, *Buff.*

SECOND SPECIES.

Motacilla Passerina, Gmel.

Sylvia Passerina, Lath. Ind.

Curraca Minor, Briss.

Muscicapa Secunda, Aldrov. Ray. & Will.

The Passerine Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

WE adopt the name *passerINETTE*, which this bird receives in Provence. This is a small fauvette, and is distinguished from the preceding, not only by its size, but by its plumage, and by the monotonous burthen *tip, tip*, of its short song, which it continually repeats as it hops among the bushes. A very delicate white gray covers all the fore and under part of the body, receiving a very light brown cast on the sides: an uniform ash gray is spread over the whole of the upper part, and stained somewhat with blackish on the great quills of the wings and of the tail: there is a small whitish streak which passes over the eye. Its

1 3

length

length is five inches three lines; and its alar extent eight inches.

The passerinette makes its nest near the ground, among shrubs: we saw one in a gooseberry bush in a garden; it was like a half-cup, composed of dry herbs, rough on the outside, but finer and better interwoven within: it contained four eggs, of a dirty white ground, with green and greenish spots, spread thicker near the large end. The iris is chestnut, and there is a very small scalloping near the point of the upper mandible: the hind nail is the strongest: the feet are lead-coloured: the intestinal tube from the gizzard to the anus is seven inches, and there are two inches from the gizzard to the *pharynx*: the gizzard is muscular, and preceded by a dilatation of the *œsophagus*: no gall bladder could be found, nor *cæcum*.—The subject was a female: the rudiments of the eggs in the ovary were of unequal sizes. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Passerina*: "It is cinereous, the under side white gray; the eyelids whitish, the wing quills and tail black." This bird is unknown in England.

B  L

N^o 122



FIG. 1. THE BLACK CAP. FIG. 2. THE EPICUREAN WARBLER.

THE
BLACK-HEADED FAUVETTE, *Buff.*

THIRD SPECIES.

Motacilla Atricapilla, Linn. Gmel. Scop. Brun. Kram. &c.

Sylvia Atricapilla, Lath. Ind.

Curruca Atricapilla, Briss. & Klein.

Atricapilla, seu *Ficedula*, Gesn. & Aldr.

The Black-cap *, Penn. Will. & Lath. Synop.

ARISTOTLE, enumerating the various changes which the revolution of the seasons produces on the feathered tribes, says that the beccafico or epicurean warbler is metamorphosed in autumn into the black-cap †. Naturalists have been much puzzled with this assertion; some regard it as marvellous, others reject it as incredible ‡: but it is really neither the

* In Greek, *Μελανόκεφαλος*, *Μελανηκεφαλος*: in Italian, *Capinera*, *Capinegro*: in German, *Grasz-muckl*, *Grasz Spatz*: in Saxon, *Monch*, *Manchlein*: in Swiss, *Schwartz-Kopff*: in Bohemian, *Plask*: in Polish, *Figoiadka*.

† *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49.

‡ *Niphus*, in Aldrovandus, strains at a solution of the problem, by distinguishing a great and little *black-head*; the latter not being transmuted into a beccafico, but the other being never seen at the same time, and actually undergoing

the one nor the other; and the explication is very easy. In fact, the young black-caps have, through the whole summer, the plumage of the epicurean warblers, and only assume their proper garb after the first moulting: and this is the interpretation which Pliny gives*.

Aldrovandus, Johnston, and Frisch, after describing the black-cap, introduce a second species, which has a brown head†: but this is only the female of the former, and the sole difference of appearance between the two sexes consists in the colour of the head. In the male, a black cap covers the back of the head and the crown, as far as the eyes; below and round the neck the plumage is of a slate gray, lighter on the throat, attenuated into white on the breast, and shaded with blackish on the sides: the back is of a brown gray, lighter on the exterior surface of the quills, deeper on the lower ones, and stained with an olive tint. The bird is five inches five lines in length; the alar extent eight inches and a half.

the metamorphosis. "The Bolognese bird-catchers," says Aldrovandus, "thus distinguish them;" yet he will not admit that opinion, and the moment after he confounds the black-cap with the bulfinch.

* *Hist. Nat. lib. x. 44.*

† *Atricapilla altera, Johnst.*

Atricapilla alia castaneo vertice, Aldrov.

Curruca vertice subrubro, Frisch.

The black-cap has the most pleasant and the fullest warble of all the fauvettes. It is somewhat like the nightingale's song, and we enjoy it much longer; for several months after the groves no more echo Philomel's notes, the music of the black-cap is heard. Its airs are easy and light, and consist of a succession of modulations of small compass, but sweet, flexible, and blended: they express the happiness and tranquillity that dwell in their haunts. The sensible heart warms with delicious emotions at accents inspired by nature, and flowing from that felicity which she has bestowed.

The male shews a tender concern for his female: not only does he carry flies, worms, and ants to her; but he relieves the languor of incubation, and sits by turns. The nest is placed near the ground, and carefully concealed in a coppice: it contains four or five eggs, of a greenish hue, with spots of light brown. The young ones grow in a few days; and though but slightly fledged, they will leap out of the nest when a person comes near it, and never will return. The black-cap has generally only one annual hatch in France. Olinia says that it makes two in Italy; and such must be the case with many other kinds of birds which inhabit a warmer climate, where the season of love is prolonged.

At

At its arrival in the spring, if the insects are destroyed by the relapse of cold, the black-cap has recourse for subsistence to the berries of some shrubs, as those of the spurge-laurel and ivy; in autumn they also eat the small seeds of the berry-bearing alder, and of the hunters service-tree*. During that season they often go to drink, and about the end of August they are caught near the springs: they are then exceeding fat, and of a delicate taste.

The black-cap may be also raised in the cage; and of all the birds of the volary it is, says Olina, the most lovely†. The attachment which it shews to its master is charming; it welcomes him with a peculiar accent, and a more tender air. On his approach it darts towards him against the wires of the cage, and struggles to burst its prison to meet him; and by the continual flapping of its wings, with its feeble cries, it seems to express its transports of joy‡.

The young ones bred in a cage, if they be within hearing of the nightingale, will improve

* Schwenckfeld.

† "Beyond the other birds of the cage, it is of a cheerful disposition, with a sweet and delightful song, with a lovely and pleasing aspect." *Olina, Uccelleria*, p. 9.

‡ *Olina*, p. 9. Of this bird Mademoiselle Descartes said, "No offence to my uncle, it has sentiment."

their song, and rival their master*. In the season of their departure, which is the end of September, all these prisoners are restless and uneasy in their confinement, particularly during the night and while the moon shines. They seem conscious of the migration which they should now perform; and so ardent is their desire of changing their climate, that at this time many die from vexation and disappointment.

This bird is common in Italy, France, Germany, and even in Sweden; yet it is said to be unfrequent in England †.

Aldrovandus speaks of a variety of this species which he calls the *variegated beccafico*, or fig-pecker (*ficedula*); but he does not inform us whether it is only an individual or a permanent difference. Brisson, who mentions it under the appellation of *black and white fauvette*, gives no further notice; and it would seem that the *black-backed fauvette* of Frisch is only the same variety.

* "The black-cap which I raised has formed its song after the nightingale, and has extended its voice to such degree, as to silence its masters, my nightingales."

Note communicated by M. le Tresorier le Moine.

"The young ones caught with the net will perfect their sylvan song, and adopt other sorts of airs from tame linnets or other birds, and will teach their nestlings all that they have acquired." *Olin.*

† Willughby.

The *little pigeon* (*petite colombaude*) of the Provençals is another variety of the black-cap; only it is rather larger, and all the upper part of its body is of a deeper colour, almost blackish: its throat is white, and its sides gray: it is neat and sprightly; is fond of shades, and of the closest woods, and delights in the dew, which it eagerly collects.

In a hen black-cap opened the fourth of June, the *ovarium* contained eggs of various sizes; the intestinal tube from the *anus* to the gizzard was seven inches and a quarter long; there were two distinctly formed *cæca*, two lines in length; the tongue was slender, and forked at the end; the upper mandible slightly scalloped; the outer toe joined to the middle one by its first *phalanx*; the hind nail the longest of all.

In a cock which was dissected on the 19th of June, the testicles were four lines long, and three broad: the *trachea arteria* had a knot swelled where it forks; the *œsophagus* about two inches long, and formed a sac before its insertion into the gizzard.

[A] Specific character of the Black-cap, *Motacilla-Atricapilla*: "It is brick-coloured, below cinereous, with a dark cap." "The black-cap," says Mr. White, "has a full, sweet, deep, loud, and wild pipe; yet that strain is of short continuance, and his motions are desultory: but when that bird sits calmly and engages in song in earnest, he pours forth very sweet, but inward melody, and expresses great variety of soft and gentle modulations, superior perhaps to those of any of our

our warblers, the nightingale excepted. Black-caps mostly haunt our orchards and gardens: while they warble, their throats are wonderfully distended." In Norfolk they are called the *mock nightingale*. Their egg is reddish brown, with duskier clouds, with straggling blackish spots.

T H E

GRISETTE OR THE GRAY FAUVETTE,

Called in Provence, PASSERINE, *Buff*.

FOURTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Passerina, *Gmel*.

Sylvia Passerina, *Lath. Ind*.

Stoparola, *Aldrovandus*.

Curruca Minor, *Briff*.

The Passerine Warbler, *Lath. Synop*.

AL드로VANDUS speaks of this bird under the name of *Stoparola*, which was given by the fowlers of Bologna, probably, says this naturalist, because it frequents the bushes and thickets where it builds its nest *.

We have seen one of these nests in a black thorn three feet from the ground; it was of a

* From the Italian *Stoppia*, stubble or brushwood.

cup shape, and consisted of meadow moss interwoven with a few stalks of dry herbs.— Sometimes it is formed entirely with these stalks, which are finer in the inside, and coarser on the outside. The nest contained five eggs of a greenish gray, sprinkled with rusty and brown spots, which are more frequent at the obtuse end.

The mother was caught with her young: the iris was of a chefnut colour; the edges of the upper mandible lightly scalloped at the point; the two eyelids furnished with white lashes: the tongue was frittered at the end; the intestinal tube from the gizzard to the *anus* was six inches long: there were two *cæca* two lines in length, their distance two inches, and the first before its insertion made a dilatation: the *ovarium* contained different sized eggs.

In a male which was opened in the middle of May, the bowels presented very nearly the same appearances: there were two testicles, of which the right one was larger than the left, its great diameter four lines, and its small diameter two lines and three quarters: the gizzard was muscular, and the two membranes were detached; it contained some fragments of insects, but no pebbles: the iris was light crimson; in another it appeared orange; which shews that this part is liable to vary in its colours, and cannot furnish a specific character.

Aldrovandus

Aldrovandus remarks, that the eye of the passerine is small, but brisk and lively. The back and crown of the head are ash gray: the temples, the plumage above and behind the eye, are marked with a more blackish spot: the throat is white as far as the eye: the breast and stomach are whitish, and shaded with a light rusty or vinous tint. The bird is larger than the epicurean warbler: its total length is five inches seven lines; its alar extent eight inches. In Provence it enjoys another climate, and its habits are rather different. It likes to repose under the fig-tree and the olive, feeds on their fruits, and its flesh becomes extremely delicate. Its feeble notes seem to repeat the two last syllables of its name, *passerine*.

M. Guys sent us from Provence a small kind of fauvette, under the name of *bouscarle*, engraved *Pl. Enl.* No. 655. fig. 2. It seems to be most related to the gray fauvette, or passerine warbler; but its colour is rather fulvous and brown than gray. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Passerina*: "It is cinereous, below gray white; its eyebrows whitish, its wing quills and tail black."

THE
BABBLER FAUVETTE, *Buff.*

FIFTH SPECIES.

Motacilla-Curruca, *Linn. Gmel. Scop. Mull. Fris.*

Sylvia-Curruca, *Lath. Ind.*

Curruca Garrula, *Briss. & Klein.*

Ficedula Canabina, *Will.*

The Babbling Warbler, *Lath. Syn.**

WE hear this warbler the ofteneft, and almost continually in fpring. It frequently mounts a fmall height directly over the hedges, and whirls in the air and drops back again, chanting a fhort paffage of a lively joyous air, which is always the fame, and which it inceffantly repeats: hence it has received the epithet of *babbler*. Befides this burthen, which it fings ofteneft while on the wing, it has another found or hollow whistle, *bjie, bjie*, which it makes in the heart of the bufhes, and which we could hardly imagine to be uttered by fo

*In Greek *Υπολαίς, Επιλαίς*: in modern Greek, *Πολαμίδα*: in Italian, *Pizamofche, Becafico Canapino*: in German, *Gras-muck, Fable Gras-muck*: in Polish, *Piegza*: in Swedish, *Kruka*.

little a bird. Its motions are as sprightly and frequent as its babble is constant; and it is the most frisky and alert of all the fauvettes. It is perpetually bustling, fluttering, hopping in and out among the bushes, without allowing a moment's rest. It nestles in the hedges, along the high roads, in the spots which afford it shelter, and commonly near the ground, and on the tufts of grass which spring up among the roots of the bushes *: its eggs are greenish dotted with brown.

According to Belon, the modern Greeks call this fauvette *potamida*, i. e. bird of rivers or rivulets. Such is the name it has in Crete; and perhaps in a warm climate † it affects the neighbourhood of waters more than in our temperate countries, where it can easily procure cooling moisture. The insects bred by heat and moisture constitute its chief food. The name which Aristotle gives it ‡ implies that it continually searches for worms; yet it is seldom seen on the ground,

* Schwenckfeld.

† Belon, p. 340.—“There is another bird called by the ancients *curruca*, which the French know under the name of *brown fauvette*, and which the Greeks who at present inhabit this island (Crete) call *potamida*. They hold that the cuckoo is hostile to it, and eats the young when it has an opportunity.” *Dapper, Descrip. des Iles de l'Archipel.*

‡ *Προλαίς*, which Gesner translates *Curruca*. From *ὑπο* and *λαίς*, a stone; because it gropes under stones for worms.

and the reptiles which it feeds on are the caterpillars it finds on the shrubs and bushes.

Belon at first calls it the *brown fauvette*, and afterwards he bestows the epithet of *leaden*, which marks much better the real tint of its plumage. The crown of its head is cinereous; all its robe ash brown; the fore part of its body white stained with rusty; the wing quills brown, their inner edge whitish: the outer edge of the great quills is cinereous, and that of the middle ones rusty gray: the twelve quills of the tail are brown edged with gray, except the two outermost, which are white on the outside, as in the common fauvette or pettychaps: the bill and feet are leaden gray: it is five inches long, and its alar extent six inches: it is of the same size with the grisette or passerine warbler, and on the whole resembles it much.

To this species we must refer not only the *hemp-beccafico* of Olina, which he says is frequent among the hemp-fields of Lombardy, but also the *canevarola* of Aldrovandus, and the *titling* of Turner.—This bird is easily tamed: as it lives in our meadows, our thickets, and our gardens, it is already half domesticated. If it is to be bred for the cage, which is sometimes done for the sake of its cheerful song, we must, says Olina, wait till it be fledged, and then take it from the nest, and put a bathing-cup in the cage;

cage; for, without this precaution, it would die. And with proper care its life may be prolonged to eighteen years in confinement. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Curruca*: "Above it is brown, below whitish; its tail quills brown; the outermost with a narrow white edging." It inhabits from Italy to Siberia. Its egg is cinereous, with rusty spots.

THE

RUSSET, OR FAUVETTE OF THE
WOODS, *Buff.*

SIXTH SPECIES.

Motacilla-Schœnobæus, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Schœnobæus, Lath. Ind.

Curruca Sylvestris, seu *Lusciniola*, Briss. Ray, & Will.

The Bog-rush Warbler, Penn.

The Reed Warbler, Lath. Syn.

IF Belon had not expressly distinguished the *russet* or *fauvette of the woods* from his *mouchet*, which we shall find to be the *winter fauvette* or hedge sparrow, we should have considered these as constituting the same species. Nor are we convinced that they are different

K 2

birds,

birds, since their resemblance is so great, and their discrimination so little: we only yield to the authority of Belon, who has perhaps observed them better than we have done.

Like the rest of the fauvettes, this bird is perpetually joyous, lively, and active, and often utters a feeble cry: it has also a song, which though monotonous is not disagreeable; and it improves the notes when it has opportunities of hearing more varied and more brilliant modulations *. Its migrations seem not to extend beyond our southern provinces; there it appears in winter †, and sings in that season: in spring, it returns to our woods, preferring the copses, and builds its nest with green moss and wool: it lays four or five eggs, which are a sky blue.

The young ones are easily raised and bred, and they amply repay the trouble of education by their familiarity, their pretty warble, and their cheerfulness. Nor are they destitute of courage. "Those which I trained," says De Querhoënt, "were the terror of many birds as large as themselves. In the month of

* "Those which I raised seemed to have a more melodious song than the wild ones, because they pretty often heard a fiddle. They sang frequently." *Note de M. le Vicomte de Querhoënt.*

† "It does not leave the country, and sings in winter like the gold-crested wren." *Id.*

April I set all my little prisoners at liberty ; but the ruflets were the laft to profit by it. As they often made fhort excursions, the wild birds of the fame fpecies purfued them: but they fheltered themfelves on the fole of my window, where they ftoutly defended their poft: they briftled their feathers ; each party trilled a feeble ftrain, and pecked the board like cocks, and fo entered into a keen combat.”

This is the only fauvette which we have not been able to delineate from nature.—The defcription which is given of its plumage confirms us in the opinion, that this fpecies is at leaft much related to the hedge fparrow, if not exactly the fame. Its head, the upper furface of its neck, the breaft, the back, and the rump, are variegated with brown and rufous, each feather being brown in the middle, and edged with rufous ; the fcapular feathers, the coverts of the upper part of the wings and of the tail, variegated with the fame colours, and in the fame manner ; the throat, the lower part of the neck, the belly, and the fides, rufty ; the quill feathers of the wings brown, and edged with rufous ; thofe of the tail entirely brown. It is of the fize of the pettychaps. The plumage of the fauvettes is in general dull and obfcure ; that of the ruflet is one of the moft variegated, and

Belon describes with warmth the beauty of its colours *. He remarks, at the same time, that this bird is scarcely known except to the fowlers and the peasants who live near the woods †, and that it is caught in the heats of the summer, when it drinks at the pools. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Schænobæus* :
 “ It is brown brick-coloured, below pale brick ; its head spotted.”

THE
 REED FAUVETTE.

SEVENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Salicaria, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Salicaria, Lath. Ind.

Curruca Arundinacea, Briss.

Luscinia Salicaria, Gesner, Ray, Will. & Klein.

Avis Stoparolæ fimilis, Sibbald.

The Willow Lark, Penn.

The Sedge Warbler, White, Albin, & Lath. Syn. ‡

THE reed fauvette chants in the warm nights of spring like the nightingale, which has occasioned some to call it the willow or

* *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 338.

† *Idem*.

‡ In German, *Weiderich*, *Wydenguckerlin* : in Swiss, *Weiderle*, *Zilzepsle* : in Polish, *Bownioska*.

osier nightingale. It makes its nest among reeds and bushes, amidst marshes, and in copses beside the margin of pools. We saw one in the low branches of a hornbeam, near the ground; it consisted of straw and stalks of dry herbs, with a little hair within. It is constructed with more art than that of the other fauvettes, and usually contains five eggs of a dirty white, mottled with brown, which is deeper and more spread about the thick end.

The young ones, though tender and not fledged, desert the nest if it be touched, or even if a person go too near it: this feature, which is common to all the fauvettes, and even to this species which breeds amidst water, seems to characterize the instinctive disposition of these birds.

During the whole of the summer we see it darting from among the reeds, to catch the dragon-flies, and other insects which buz on the surface of the water. It continually warbles*; and it drives away the other birds†, that it may remain sole proprietor of its spot, which it does not quit till September, the season when it departs with its family.

It is of the size of the black-cap; being five inches and four lines in length, and its alar ex-

* Hebert.

† Gesner.

tent eight inches eight lines: its bill is seven inches and a half long; its feet, nine lines; its tail, two inches: the wings, when closed, reach beyond the middle of the tail: all the upper part of its body is of a light rusty gray, and inclining somewhat to olive near the rump: the feathers of the wings are browner than those of the tail: the inferior coverts of the wings are of a light yellow; the throat and all the fore part of the body yellowish on a whitish ground, and stained on the sides and near the tail with brown shades.

It is not in the least degree probable that the *petronella* of Schwenckfeld, "a bird which nestles under rocks and on the bare ground, which is seen only in the craggy parts of the mountains, and which continually jerks its tail like the wag-tail," is the same with our reed fauvette. We cannot conceive why Brisson ranged them together; for even the plumage which Schwenckfeld describes, would shew it to be rather a kind of redstart.

If the *sedge bird* of Albin is also the same, his figure must be a very bad one, and all its colours false: it is not painting but masking nature. The figure given by Aldrovandus, and borrowed from Gefner, under the name of *salicaria*, has a much thicker bill than belongs to the genus of fauvettes; and if the bird (*avis*

confimilis stoparolæ & magnanimæ) is the reed warbler, as Brisson says, and which seems probable, it will be difficult to suppose that the *salicaria* is the same. Such is the confusion of Aldrovandus's account of this genus, which he seems not to have known from his own observations; and the example of this respectable naturalist shews how dangerous it is to trust to defective or inaccurate relations. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Sedge Warbler, *Motacilla Salicaria*: "It is cinereous, below white; its eye-brows white." It is not uncommon in England; sings night and day in the breeding season, imitating the notes of a sparrow, of a swallow, and of a sky-lark.

T H E

LITTLE RUFOUS FAUVETTE.

E I G H T H S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Rufa, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Rufa, *Lath. Ind.*

Curruca Rufa, *Briss.*

Muscipeta Minima, *Fris.*

The Rufous Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

BELON tells us, that he was at great pains to discover the ancient name of the little rufous fauvette, and yet in settling this point he

he falls into a mistake, conceiving it to be the *troglydyte*. He seems even sensible, in some measure, of his error; for he observes that the text of *Ætius* and *Paul Æginetus*, which describes the *troglydyte*, agrees better with the brown wren than with the rufous fauvette. And we shall afterwards find that this remark is well founded. Indeed the appellation of *troglydyte* can refer only to a bird which frequents caverns, and the holes of rocks or of walls, a character which belongs to none of the fauvettes; though Belon, erroneously imagining the word *fauvette* derived from the Latin *fovea*, a pit or burrow, admits it to have this instinct *.

The rufous warbler has commonly five young; but they often become the prey of the rapacious birds, particularly the shrikes. The eggs are greenish white, and marked with two kinds of spots; some obscure and hardly visible, scattered equally over the surface; others deeper and well defined, most frequent near the thick end. "It constantly makes its nest," says Belon, "in some garden herb or bush, such as hemlock and the like, or behind a garden wall in the towns or villages." The inside is lined with horse-hair; but the nest observed by Belon had

* *Fauvette* is really derived from *fauve*, fox-colour, *Menage*.

a hole in the bottom, which he ascribes to design, though it was probably accidental*; for this is contrary to the general construction, which is calculated to collect and concentrate the heat.

The same naturalist hits better when he says that the plumage of this little warbler is uniform, and the same with that of the nightingale's tail. The comparison is happy; and will save us a minute description. We shall only observe, that there is a little rufous shading the great coverts of the wings, and more faintly spread through the webs of their quills, with a very dilute and light tinge of rusty on the gray of the back and head, and on the whitish colour of the sides. This bird is therefore improperly styled *the rufous*, since only a few parts of its plumage are dashed slightly with it.

Its total length is only four inches eight lines; its alar extent six inches ten lines: it is one of the smallest of the genus, being inferior even to the passerine warbler. But Belon seems to exaggerate when he says, "that it is hardly so big as the end of the finger." [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Rufa*: "It is gray rufous, below tawny; a longitudinal streak on its temples; the quills of its wings and tail tawny."

* It is lined on the inside with horse-hair, and so nicely that it is perforated like a noose; so that the excrements of the young escape, and they are always preserved clean." *Nat. des Ois.* p. 341.

T H E
SPOTTED FAUVETTE, *Buff.*

N I N T H S P E C I E S .

Motacilla Nævia, *Gmel.*

Curruca Nævia, *Briss.*

Sylvia Nævia, *Lath. Ind.*

Boarina, *Aldrov.*

The Fig-eater, *Alb. & Lath.*

TH E plumage of the fauvettes is commonly uniform and unvaried. The present is distinguished by some black spots on the breast; but the rest of its plumage is similar to that of the rest of the genus. It is of the size of the second species, or the passerine warbler; its length five inches four lines, and its wings when closed cover half the tail: all its mantle from the crown of the head to the origin of the tail is variegated with rusty brown, yellowish and cinereous: the quills of the wings are blackish, edged exteriorly with white: those of the tail are the same: the breast is yellowish, marked with black spots: the throat, the fore part of the neck, the belly, and the sides are white.

This

This warbler is more common in Italy, and probably in the southern provinces of France, than in the northern countries, where it is little known. According to Aldrovandus, it is frequent near Bologna; and the name which he gives to it, shews that it usually follows the herds of cattle in the fields *.

It builds in the meadows, and places its nest within a foot of the ground in some large plant, as fennel, chervil, &c. It never springs when one approaches the spot, and it suffers itself to be caught rather than abandon its young, preferring the life of its progeny to its own: so powerful that instinct which inspires the feeble, fugacious animals with courage and intrepidity! In all creatures that obey the wise laws of nature, the parental affection is the source of whatever may be deemed virtuous.

* *Boaro*, in Italian, signifies a cow-herd.

THE
WINTER FAUVETTE,
Or TRaine-Buisson, or MOUCHET, *Briff.*

TENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Modularis, Linn. Gmel. Mull. Fris.

Sylvia Modularis, Lath. Ind.

Curruca Sepiaria, Briff.

Sylvia Gulâ Plumbeâ, Klein.

Curruca Eliotæ, Ray. & Will.

The Hedge-Sparrow, Penn. Alb. Will. & Lath. Ind.*

ALL the other fauvettes depart in autumn; this, on the contrary, arrives in that season. It resides among us during the whole of the winter months; and hence it has been styled the *winter fauvette*, and in some provinces the *winter nightingale*. The English and Italian appellations of *hedge-sparrow*, and *wood-sparrow* (*passara salvatica*), allude to the resemblance which its plumage, variegated with black and rufous brown, bears to that of the tree-sparrow; a resemblance which Belon found to be complete †.—In fact, the colours of the winter fau-

* In Italian, *Passara Salvatica*: in German, *Prunell*: in Swedish, *Jaern-Spart*.

† *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 375.

N^o 123



THE HEDGE WARBLER.

B  L

vette are much deeper than those of the others: its general complexion is blackish, and all its quills and feathers are bordered with rufous brown: its cheeks, its throat, the fore part of its neck and breast are of a blueish cinereous: there is a rusty spot on the temple: the belly is white. Its size is that of the red-breast; its alar extent eight inches. The cock differs from the hen, in having more of the rufous cast on the head and neck, and the latter being more stained with cinereous.

These birds perform their migrations in bodies: they arrive in the end of October, and the beginning of November: they alight on the hedges, and go from bush to bush, always near the ground, and hence their name of *trail-bush* (*traine-buisson*). It is not timorous, and is easily ensnared *. It has neither the shyness nor the vivacity of the other fauvettes, and its disposition seems to participate of the cold and torpor of the season.

Its usual strain is quivering; it is a sort of soft shake *tittit-tititit*, which it often repeats. It has also a slender warble, which, though mournful and little varied, is pleasant to hear in a season when all the other songsters are silent: this is the most frequent and lengthened towards evening. In the depth of winter, the hedge-sparrow haunts

* Willughby.

B  L

vette are much deeper than those of the others : its general complexion is blackish, and all its quills and feathers are bordered with rufous brown: its cheeks, its throat, the fore part of its neck and breast are of a blueish cinereous: there is a rusty spot on the temple: the belly is white. Its size is that of the red-breast; its alar extent eight inches. The cock differs from the hen, in having more of the rufous cast on the head and neck, and the latter being more stained with cinereous.

These birds perform their migrations in bodies: they arrive in the end of October, and the beginning of November: they alight on the hedges, and go from bush to bush, always near the ground, and hence their name of *trail-bush* (*traine-buisson*). It is not timorous, and is easily ensnared *. It has neither the shyness nor the vivacity of the other fauvettes, and its disposition seems to participate of the cold and torpor of the season.

Its usual strain is quivering; it is a sort of soft shake *tittit-tittit*, which it often repeats. It has also a slender warble, which, though mournful and little varied, is pleasant to hear in a season when all the other songsters are silent: this is the most frequent and lengthened towards evening. In the depth of winter, the hedge-sparrow haunts

* Willughby.

the barns and threshing-floors, to pick up the fine meal from among the chaff. Hence probably the name *chaff-scraper* (*gratte-paille*), which is given to it in Brie. Hebert says, that he found whole grains of wheat in its craw; but its slender bill is not calculated for such food, and necessity alone can compel it to that resource. As soon as the cold abates, it again retires to the hedges, searching on the branches for the chrysalids, and dead vine-fretters.

It disappears in the spring; whether that it penetrates into the forests and returns to the mountains, as in Lorraine, where I am informed that it breeds; or whether it migrates into other climates, particularly towards the north, from whence it seems to come in the autumn, and where it is very frequent in summer. In England, according to Albin, it is found during the warm weather in every bush. It inhabits Sweden; and the epithet which Linæus applies, seems to shew that it continues during the winter, and assumes the white plumage common in the northern climates in that season *. It also breeds in Germany; but its nest is very rarely found in France: it is placed near the ground, or even on the surface, and it consists of moss, lined with wool and

* *Passer Canus*. Syst. Nat. edit. vi.

hair: it usually contains four or five eggs of a pleasant uniform light blue, without any spots. When a cat, or any mischievous animal, happens to come near the nest, the mother will divert it from the spot by an instinct similar to that by which the partridge misleads the dog; she springs up, flutters from spot to spot, till her enemy is removed to a safe distance. Albin says, that in England the young are hatched against the month of May, that they are easily raised, that they are not timorous, and even become very familiar; and lastly, that their warble is esteemed, though not so cheerful as that of the other fauvettes *.

Their leaving France in the spring, and their plenty in the northern regions during that season, are singular facts in the history of the migration of birds. After the grasshopper warbler, this is the second species with a slender bill,

* A winter fauvette kept during that season at the house of M. Daubenton the younger, and caught in a snare in autumn, was not wilder than if it had been taken from the nest. It was put into a volery filled with canaries, linnets, and goldfinches. A canary took such a liking to this fauvette that he would never leave it; and M. Daubenton was induced to remove them from the general volery, and put them by themselves in a breeding-cage. But this attachment seemed to be friendship only, and not love; they did not copulate, nor is it likely that their union would have been productive.

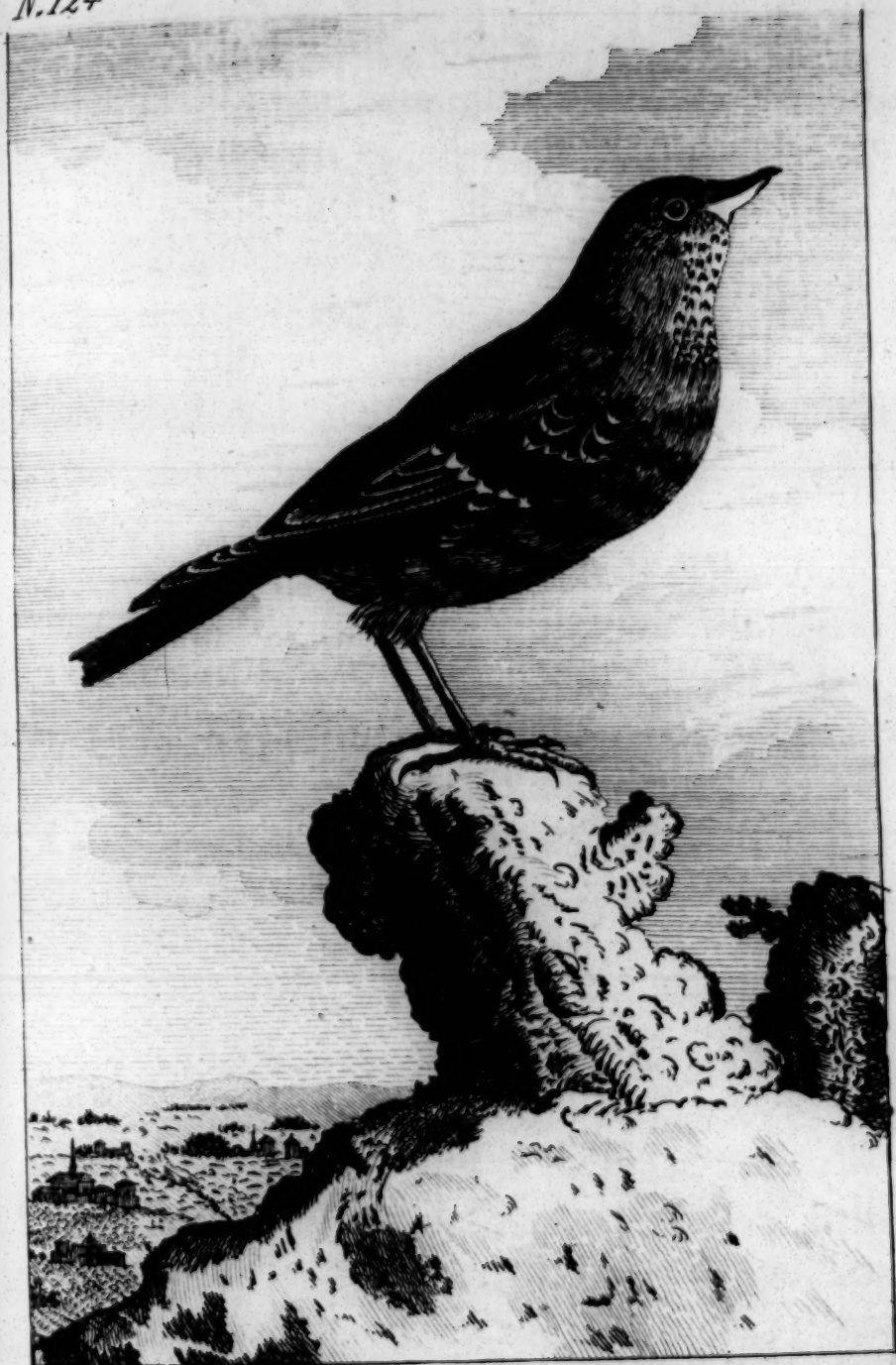
which retires from the heats of our summers, and yet supports the rigours of our winters, which all the rest of the genus shun: and this instinct alone is sufficient to distinguish it, or at least to set it at a small distance from the others.

T H E

ALPINE FAUVETTE.

THIS bird is found on the Alps and the high mountains of Dauphiné and Auvergne: it is at least as large as the common bunting, and therefore in point of size it far exceeds the fauvelles; but still it is connected to them by many marked characters. Its throat is white, spotted with two different tints of brown: its breast is ash gray: all the rest of its body is variegated with gray, more or less inclined to whitish, and with rufous: the inferior coverts of its tail are marked with blackish and white: the upper part of its head and neck is ash gray: its back is of the same colour, but variegated with brown: the superior coverts of its

N^o 124



THE ALPINE WARBLER.

B  L

its wings are blackish, spotted with white to the point: the quills of its wings are brown, edged exteriorly, the large ones with whitish, the middle ones with rusty colour: the superior coverts of its tail are brown edged with greenish gray, and rusty near the point: all the quills of its tail are terminated above by a rusty spot on the inner side: its bill is eight lines in length, blackish above, yellow below at the base, and not scalloped: its feet are yellowish: the *tarsus* is an inch long: the hind nail is much thicker than the rest: the tail is two inches and a half long, somewhat forked, and exceeds the wings near an inch. The whole length of the bird is seven inches: the tongue is forked; the *oesophagus* is rather more than three inches, and it dilates into a sort of glandulous sac before its insertion into the gizzard, which is very thick, and an inch long, and eight lines broad: it is muscular, and lined loosely by a membrane: it generally contains fragments of insects, different small seeds, and minute gravel. The left lobe of the liver, which covers the gizzard, is smaller than usual in birds: there is no gall-bladder, but two *cæca* of a line and an half each: the intestinal tube is ten or twelve inches long.

Though these birds inhabit the Alpine tracts which lie between France and Italy, and even

those in Auvergne and Dauphiné, no author has mentioned them. The Marquis de Piolenc sent several to M. Gueneau de Montbeillard, which were killed at his barony of Montbel, 18th January 1778. They never remove far from the lofty mountains, unless they be compelled to retreat by the abundance of snow: accordingly, they are hardly seen in the low country. They are generally on the ground, and run swiftly, scudding along like the quail and the partridge, and not hopping as the other fauvettes do. They also sit upon stones, but seldom perch on trees: they wander in small bodies, and recall each other by a feeble cry like that of the wagtail. When the cold is moderate, they live in the fields; but when it becomes more severe, they resort to the moist meadows where there is moss, and are then seen running on the ice. Their last resource is the tepid springs and brooks: they are often found in such situations when the person is hunting for snipes. They are not shy; yet are they difficult to kill, especially on the wing.

T H E
P I T C H O U.

Motacilla Provincialis, *Gmel.*

The Dartford Warbler, *Lath.*

THIS name is, in Provence, applied to a very small bird, which appears to us more related to the fauvelles than to any other genus. Its total length is five inches, of which the tail takes up near the one half. It probably received this appellation because it conceals itself among cabbage (*chou*): it searches for the young butterflies that are bred on the leaves, and in the evening it squats and hides itself from its enemy, the bat, which roves above its cold lodging. But several persons have assured me, that *pitchou* has no relation to *chou*, and signifies only *little* or *slender*; which agrees with Italian etymology*, and suits well this bird, which is almost as small as a wren.

The bill of the pitchou is long in comparison to its body, being seven lines: it is blackish at the tip, whitish at the base: the upper mandible is scalloped near the end: the wing is very

* *Piccino, Piccinino.*

short, and covers only the origin of the tail; the *tarsus* is eight lines; the nails are very thin, and the hind one is the largest: all the upper part of the body, from the forehead to the end of the tail, is deep cinereous: the quills of the tail, and the great quills of the wings, are edged with light cinereous on the outside, and blackish within.—We are indebted to M. Guys of Marfeilles for our knowledge of this bird.

FOREIGN BIRDS

RELATED TO THE FAUVETTES.

I.

THE SPOTTED FAUVETTE,

FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Motacilla Africana, *Gmel.*The African Warbler, *Lath.*

THIS bird, described by Brisson, is one of the largest, since he makes it equal to the brambling, and seven inches three lines long. The crown of the head is rufous, variegated with blackish spots in the middle of the feathers: the top of the neck, the back and the shoulders are clouded, except that their edge is dirty gray: near the rump, on the coverts of the wings, and the upper surface of the tail, they are edged with rufous: all the under and fore part of the body is rusty white, variegated with some blackish spots on the flanks: on each side of the throat there is a small black stripe: the quills of the wings are brown, with the outer border rufous: the four quills in the middle of the tail are similar, the rest are rufous, but all

of them are sharp and pointed: the bill is horn-colour, and eight lines long: the feet are ten lines, and of a dun gray.

II.

THE SMALL SPOTTED FAUVETTE,

FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THIS is a new species, and introduced by Sonnerat: it is smaller than the babbler fauvette, and its tail is longer than its body: the whole of its robe is brown, and the breast is spotted with blackish on a yellowish white ground.

III.

THE SPOTTED FAUVETTE,

FROM LOUISIANA.

Motacilla Noveboracensis, *Gmel.*

The New York Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

IT is of the size of the tit-lark, and resembles it in the manner in which all the under
part

part of the body is spotted with blackish on a yellowish white ground ; these spots reach from near the eyes to the sides of the tail : a streak of white rises at the angle of the bill, and terminates in the eye : all the upper surface, from the crown of the head to the end of the tail, is mixed with cinereous and deep brown.

We should not have hesitated to refer to this species, as a variety proceeding from age or sex, another fauvette which was also sent from Louisiana, of which the plumage is a lighter gray, and has only a few traces of the spots which are distinctly painted on the former : the upper part of the body is whitish ; a vestige of a yellowish tinge appears on the sides, and the rump : besides, these two birds are of the same size ; the quills and the great coverts of the wings in the last are fringed with whitish ; but an essential difference takes place in their bills : in the first, it is as large as the reed fauvette, and in the second, it is hardly equal to that of the small fauvette. This diversity in the principal part appears to be specific, and we shall therefore constitute this another species, under the name of SHADED FAUVETTE FROM LOUISIANA*.

* *Motacilla Umbria*, *Gmel.*

The Umbrose Warbler, *Penn.*

The Dusky Warbler, *Lath.*

IV. THE

IV.

THE YELLOW-BREASTED FAUVETTE,
FROM LOUISIANA.

THIS is one of the handsomest and most brilliant of the whole genus : a half-mask of black covers the face and temples even beyond the eyes, and supports a white border ; all the upper surface is olive, all the under part yellow, with an orange tint on the sides. It is of the size of the passerine warbler. It was brought from Louisiana by Lebeau.

A fourth species is the *Greenish Fauvette* from the same country. It is of the size of the spotted fauvette, which we have just described : its bill is as long, and is stronger : its throat is white ; the under part of the body white gray ; a white streak passes below the eye, and beyond it : the crown of the head is blackish ; the upper side of the neck is deep ash colour ; the flanks and the back are greenish, on a light brown ground ; a purer greenish borders the quills of the tail, and the outside of those of the wings, whose ground is blackish. It seems, by reason of its blackish hood, to form the correlative to our black-cap, which it equals in size.

V. THE

V.

THE RUFOUS-TAILED FAUVETTE,

FROM CAYENNE.

*Motacilla Ruficauda, Gmel.*The Rufous-tailed Warbler, *Lath.*

ITS total length is five inches one fourth: it has a white throat, encircled with rusty dotted with brown: the breast is light brown: the rest of the under part of the body is white, with a rusty tinge on the inferior coverts of the tail: all the upper side, from the crown of the head to the origin of the tail, is brown, with a rufous tinge on the back; the coverts of the wings are rufous, their quills edged exteriorly with rufous; and all the tail is of that colour.

VI.

THE FAUVETTE OF CAYENNE,

WITH A BROWN THROAT AND YELLOW BELLY.

*Motacilla Fuscicollis, Gmel.*The Yellow-bellied Warbler, *Lath.*

THE throat, the upper side of the head, and of the body, are of a greenish brown: the quills
and

and coverts of the wings have the same ground colour, but are edged with rusty; those of the tail with greenish: the breast and belly are yellow, shaded with fulvous. It is one of the smallest of the genus, and scarcely exceeds the willow-wren: its bill is broad, and flat at its base, and in that respect it appears to resemble the fly-catchers, which are in fact nearly related to the fauvelles, being distinguished only by slight differences of conformation, while they are connected by one leading character, viz. that their modes of living are the same.

VII.

THE BLUEISH FAUVELLE OF SAINT DOMINGO.

Motacilla Cærulefcens, Gmel.

The Blue-grey Warbler, *Lath.*

THIS pretty little fauvelle is only four inches and a half long; and all the upper side of the head, and of the whole of the body, is blue cinereous: the quills of the tail are edged with the same colour, on a brown ground: there is a white spot on the wing, of which the quills

are brown: the tail is black: the rest of the under side of the body is white.

We are sorry that we know nothing of the habits of these different birds. Nature stamps every animated being with instincts and powers suited to their climates, and as various as those: such subjects are always worthy of being observed, but almost always want proper observers. Few are so intelligent or so laborious as the person * to whom we owe the interesting account of another little fauvette in St. Domingo, called the *yellow-neck* in that island.

* M. le Chevalier Lefevre Deshayes.

THE
YELLOW - NECK.

Motacilla Penfilis, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Penfilis, *Lath. Ind.*

The Penfile Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

SUCH is the name (*cou-jaune*) which the settlers in St. Domingo have bestowed on a small bird*, which to beauty of plumage joins an easy shape and a pleasant warble: it sits upon the trees which are in blossom, and strains its little throat: its voice is slender and weak, but varied and delicate; each passage of its music is composed of rich and full cadences†. The bird is the more charming, as its song lasts not only spring, the season of love, but is prolonged through almost all the months of the year. We should almost suppose that its passion suffers no

* They also call it *the goldfinch*: yet the yellow-neck has the slender bill of the pettychaps, or red-breast, and the port, the temper, and habits of the latter; nor has it any thing analogous to the goldfinch but the warble, which is also very different.

† "The song of the *corn or cane bird* resembles in the thinness of its tones, and the quality of its modulation, the warble of the yellow-neck." *Note of M. Lefevre Deshayes*, an ingenious and sensible observer, to whom we owe the details in this article, and many other interesting facts in the natural history of the birds of St. Domingo.

intermission ; and, in that case, it might be incessantly fired to warble its amorous tale. As soon as the weather grows fine, especially after those sudden and excessive torrents of rain which are so frequent in the West Indies, the male tunes his voice, and chants whole hours together : the female also sings ; but her notes are neither so well supported, nor so finely blended.

Nature, who paints most of the birds in the New World with the richest colours, denies them the charms of song, and, in the desert tracts, she bestows only some savage cries. The yellow-neck is one of the small number whose warble is lively and cheerful, and whose plumage is at the same time distinguished for beauty : the tints are well blended, and are heightened by the fine yellow which spreads over the throat, the neck, and the breast : black gray predominates on the head, and, growing more dilute as it descends to the neck, it changes into a deep gray on the back : there is a white line which crowns the eye, and joins to a small yellow streak lying between the eye and the bill : the belly is white, and the sides are speckled with white and black gray : the coverts of the wings are spotted with black and white, disposed in horizontal stripes ; there are also large white spots on the quills, of which there are sixteen in each wing, and with a small white gray border at
the

the end of the great webs: the tail consists of twelve quills, of which the four outer ones are marked with large white spots: a scaly fine skin, of a greenish gray, covers the legs: the bird is four inches and nine lines in length; its alar extent eight inches, and it weighs one gros and a half.

Under this rich clothing, the penfile warbler has the figure and proportions of the fauvettes; and its habits are also the same. It prefers for its haunts the sides of rivulets, and the cool refreshing spots near springs, and wet gullies; whether because a mild temperature is most congenial to its nature, or that it seeks retirement where nothing may disturb its music. It flutters from tree to tree, and from branch to branch, and warbles in its passage through the air. It preys on flies, caterpillars, and butterflies; and yet, in the season, it cracks the seeds of the guava and water melon, &c. probably to find the maggots which are bred in these at a certain state of maturity. It appears neither to arrive in St. Domingo nor depart: its flight, though rapid, is not so lofty, nor so continued, as to waft it over the ocean*, and it may be regarded as a native of that island.

But

* M. Deshayes compares the flight of the yellow-neck to that of the bird called at St. Domingo *de la Toussaint* (All-

But the beauty and sensibility of this bird are no less remarkable than the sagacity it displays in building and placing its nest. It does not fix it at the forking of the branches, as usual with most other birds ; it suspends it to binders hanging from the netting, which they form from tree to tree, especially those which fall from branches leaning over the rivers and deep ravines : the nest consists of dry blades of grass, the ribs of leaves, and exceedingly small roots, interwoven with the greatest art ; it is fastened, or rather it is worked into the pendent strings ; it is really a small bed rolled into a ball, so thick and compacted as to exclude the rain, and which rocks in the wind without receiving any harm.

But the elements are not the only enemies against which this bird has to struggle: with wonderful sagacity it provides for its protection from other foes: the opening is not made on the top or side of the nest, but at the bottom ; nor is the entrance direct : after the bird has made its way into the vestibule, it must pass another aperture before it descends into the abode of its family : this lodgment is round and soft, and lined with a sort of lichen which grows on the trees, or

(*All-Saints*), seemingly because it arrives about that time. "It is nearly of the size," says he, "of the yellow-neck ; but this is very delicate in comparison, and the muscles of its wings are much less vigorous than in the bird *de la Toussaint*."

with the silk of a plant called by the Spaniards *mort à cabaye**.

By this laborious construction, the young brood are protected against the attacks of the rapacious birds, and of the rats and snakes. Yet dangers still await them: when they are about to fly, many are devoured by the owls and rats, and the species ever remains limited. Such is the fate of the weak and gentle creatures in those regions, where the noxious kinds spread and prevail by their numbers.

The female lays only three or four eggs; she hatches more than once in the year, but how often is not known: the young ones are seen in the month of June, and some are said to appear as early as March, and others are found in the end of August, or in September; they soon leave their mother, but never rove far from the place of their nativity. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Penfils*: "It is gray, below yellow, its belly and eyebrows white, its straps spotted with yellow, the coverts of its wings marked with alternate stripes of black and white."

* "It is a plant which grows in the savannas of St. Domingo, and delights in humid situations: its milk is a strong poison, which is no doubt the reason of its name, *mort à cabaye*." *Note de M. le Chev. Deshayes.*

THE

RED START.

Le Rossignol de Muraille, *Buff.**

Motacilla-Phœnicurus, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Phœnicurus, *Briss. Frisch, &c.*

Ruticilla, *Ray. Will. Briss. Klein, Gibb. &c.*

Pyrrhulas, *Johnst.*

THE song of this bird has neither the extent nor the variety of the nightingale's warble; but it partakes of the same modulations, and wears an air of tenderness and melancholy. Such at least are the emotions which this awakens in us; for, with regard to the bird itself, it must be the expression of joy and pleasure, as it is the expression of love, which is equally delicious to every animated being. This is the only analogy that subsists between the two

* In Greek, Φοινικυρος, *Arist. Hist. Anim. lib. ix. 49*: in Latin, *Phœnicurus*, *Plin. lib. x. 29*: in Italian, *Codirosso*, *Corossolo*, *Revezol*: In German likewise its names denote the reddish colour of its tail; *Rot-stertz*, *Rot-schwentzel*, *Wein-vogel*, *Rot-schwantz*, *Schwantz-kehlein*, and the female *Roth-schwentzlein*. It is also called *Haus-roetele*, *Summer-roetele* (house or summer red bird): in Silesian, *Wustling*: in Prussian, *Saulocker*: in Polish, *Czerwony Ogonek*. The English name Redstart is evidently borrowed from the German *Rot-stertz*, which signifies *red-tail*.

birds; their habits, their size, their plumage* are different, though in French the same generic name of *nightingale* has been usually applied to both.

This bird appears with the rest in the spring, and sits on towers and the ruins of deserted buildings, and there it pours forth its notes. It even procures solitude in the midst of cities, where it settles on the top of a high wall, in a belfry, on a chimney, &c. always seeking the most lofty and most inaccessible spots: it is also found in the heart of the thickest forests. It flies nimbly; and when it perches it vents a feeble cry †, and quivers its tail incessantly, not upwards and downwards, but horizontally, from right to left. It prefers the mountainous tracts, and seldom visits the plains ‡. It is much smaller than the nightingale, and even something smaller than the redbreast; its form is more slender, and longer; a black horse-shoe covers its throat, the fore part and sides of its neck; the same black encircles its eyes, and reaches under its bill; a white bar masks its face: the crown and back of its head, the upper part of its neck and back, are of a glossy, but deep gray: in some subjects, probably old ones, this gray is almost black: the wing quills are blackish cinereous; their outer webs are of

* Belon.

† Id.

‡ Olina.

a lighter

a lighter cast, and fringed with whitish gray: below the black horse-shoe, a fine rufous fire colour decorates a great part of the breast; and, fading somewhat on the sides, it again resumes its lustre on all the plumage of the tail, except the two middle feathers, which are brown; the belly is white, and the feet black; the tongue is forked at the end, as in the nightingale*.

The female differs so much from the male, that some authors have reckoned it a second species†: it has neither the white face nor the black throat of the latter; both these parts are gray mixed with rusty, and the rest of the plumage is of a lighter tinge.

These birds breed both in towns and in the country, in hollow trees or in the crags of rocks: they lay five or six blue eggs: the young are hatched in May‡. During the whole time of incubation, the male chants from some neighbouring eminence, or from the top of a detached building§; and his music is softest at day-break||.

It is said that these birds are timorous and suspicious, and that they will abandon their nest, if they be seen employed in constructing it, and that they will desert the eggs if they be touched. All this is probable; but what Albin adds is

* Belon. † Linnæus and Klein. ‡ Schwenckfeld.

§ Olina, *Uccell.* p. 47. || Aldrovandus, t. ii. p. 750.

absurd ; that if the young be handled, the parents will leave them to their fate, or throw them out of their nest *.

The redstart, though it lives amidst our dwellings, continues still savage. It has neither the familiarity of the redbreast, the sprightliness of the fauvette, nor the animation of the nightingale ; its habits are solitary, its character is sullen and sad†. If it be caught in the adult state, it will refuse all sustenance, and pine to death ‡ ; or if it survive the loss of its liberty, an obstinate silence will mark its disconsolate condition. However, if it be taken from the nest and raised in the cage, it will sing ; and instructions, or the imitation of other birds, will improve its warble §, which is heard indiscriminately at every hour, and even during the night ||.

It is fed with crumbs of bread, and with the same paste as the nightingale ; it is even more delicate ¶. When at liberty, it lives on flies,

* Albin, vol. i. p. 44.

† “ Their young much resemble those of the redbreasts ; they cannot be so easily raised. I have kept one a whole winter ; it seemed of a timid disposition, yet was it continually hopping, and had a very keen eye ; it could distinguish at one end of the room the smallest insect at the other, and darted to it in an instant, emitting a cry in seizing it.” *Note communicated by the Viscount de Querboënt.*

‡ Albin, vol. i. p. 44.

§ Idem, ibidem.

|| Olina, *Uccelleria*, p. 47.

¶ Belon.

spiders, the chrysalids of ants, small berries, and soft fruits. In Italy it pecks the figs; and Olina tells us that it is seen in that country as late as the month of November, though in France it disappears in October. It departs when the redbreast begins to visit our habitations; and this is the reason perhaps that Aristotle and Pliny assert that the redbreast of winter, and the redstart of summer, are the same bird *. Even in their migrations, the redstarts shew their solitary disposition; they never assemble in flocks, but arrive and depart singly †.

There are varieties of the redstart; some derived from climate, others occasioned by age. Aldrovandus mentions three; but the first is a female, and the second is an imperfect figure from Gefner, and only the bird disguised; the third only is a true variety; it has a long white streak on the fore part of the head: this is what

* Arist. *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49.—Plin. lib. x. 29.—Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 347, 348.

† “This year I took a walk into the park one day when there was probably a numerous flight, for I sprung them every minute from the hedge-rows, and almost always one by one. I got so near many of them as to distinguish them easily: it was about the 15th of September. These birds are very common at Nantua in the spring and summer, and probably leave the mountains in the beginning of autumn, but without settling in our plains, where it is very rare to see them at any other season.” *Note communicated by M. Hebert.*

Briffon calls the *cinereous redstart*, and which Willughby and Ray describe from Aldrovandus. Frisch mentions another variety of the hen redstart, in which the breast is marked with rufous spots; and this variety constitutes Klein's second species. The gray redstart of Edwards*, sent from Gibraltar to Catesby, and which Briffon makes his second species, is probably only a variety of climate. It is of the same size with the common redstart; the greatest difference is, that there are no rufous tints on its breast, and that the outer edges of the middle quills of its wing are white.

Another variety nearly the same is the bird sent to us by M. D'Orcy, in which the black colour of the throat spreads over the breast and sides; whereas in the common redstart these parts are rufous. We do not know whence M. D'Orcy received it; it had a white spot on the wing, of which the quills are blackish; all the cinereous cast of the upper part of the body is deeper than in the redstart, and the white of the forehead is much less apparent.

There is besides in America a species of redstart described by Catesby, which we shall leave undecided, and not ranged expressly with that of Europe; not so much because of the difference of characters, as of the wide separation be-

* *Motacilla Gibraltariensis*, Gmel.

tween the continents. In fact, Catesby ascribes to the Virginian redstart the same habits which we survey in our own. It lives in the closest woods; it is seen only in summer: its head, neck, back and wings are black, except a small spot of vivid rufous on its wing; the rufous colour of the breast is divided into two by the continuation of the gray of the stomach; the point of its tail is black. Are these differences specific, and more marked than what might be expected from the influence of another hemisphere?

The *Bugey-collier* (*charbonnier du Bugey*), according to Hebert's account, is also the redstart*. We shall make the same assertion in regard to the *rufset-tail*† of Provence, of which

* "I think that the name of redstart (*queue-rouge*) may also be given to a bird of the bulk of a pettychaps, which is very common in Bugey, and there called the *collier* (*charbonnier*): it appears both in the towns and among the rocks; it nestles in the holes. Every year it has a nest on the ridge of the house which I occupy, in a hole at a great height: while the hen covered, the cock perched very near her on some point of the ridge, or on some very lofty tree, and repeated incessantly a doleful warble, which had only two variations, succeeding constantly in the same order at equal intervals. These birds have a sort of convulsive trembling of the tail. I have seen them sometimes at Paris in the Tuilleries, never in Brie, nor have I heard their warble in Bugey." Note communicated by M. Hebert, Farmer General at Dijon.

† *Cul-rouffet*, ou *Cul-rouffet farnou*.

we

we have been informed by M. Guys. We likewise suppose that the * *chimney-bird* of the same province is the redstart; at least, the analogy of habits and also resemblance of characters seem to evince the identity. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Redstart, *Motacilla-Phænicurus*: "Its throat is black, its belly and tail rufous, its head and back hoary." The redstart is frequent in England: its song is somewhat like that of the white-throat, though superior. Its egg is blue.

* *Fourmeirou*, ou *fourneirou de cheminée*.

T H E

R E D - T A I L.

Rouge-Queue, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Erithacus *, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia-Erithacus, *Lath. Ind.*

Phœnicurus Torquatus, *Briss.*

Phœnicurus Alter, *Aldrov.*

The Gray Redstart, *Penn.*

ARISTOTLE mentions three small birds, and marks by the composition of the names which he applies that the principal feature of their plumage is a flame tint. These are the Φοινικερος, which Gaza translates by *ruticilla*; Ερυθακος, translated *rubecula*; and Πυρρελας, which he renders *rubicilla* †. We are pretty confident that the first is the redstart, and the second the redbreast; indeed the habits which Aristotle ascribes to these, that the former lives in the summer near our habitations, and disappears in autumn when the latter arrives, can belong to no other birds which have

* *Erithacus* might properly perhaps be written *Erythacus*. T.

† Φοινικερος is derived probably from Φοινίξ the Tyrian purple, and ἄρα a tail; Πυρρελας is evidently formed from πυρ fire; Ερυθακος from ερυθος red.

a rutilous

a rutilous plumage, but the redstart or red-breast. It will be more difficult to ascertain the *Πυρραλας* or *rubicilla*. These names have been applied by all the nomenclators to the bulfinch: their opinion was noticed, but not discussed, at that article; and we shall now resume the subject, and state the reasons which dispose us to make a very different conclusion.

Aristotle enumerates at this place the small birds, with a slender bill, which live chiefly on vegetables; such are, says he, the *cygalis*, the *beccafico* (or epicurean warbler), the *melancoryphus** (or black-cap), the *pyrrhulas*, the *erythacus*, the *hypolaïs* (the babbling warbler): but I ask whether the bulfinch can be classed with these; or is not that bird the most decidedly granivorous? It will not touch insects in the season when most others feed upon them; and

* I know that Belon and many naturalists after him, have referred also to the bulfinch the name of *melancoryphus*; but I am convinced that this application is erroneous. Aristotle speaks in two places of the *melancoryphus*, and in both he alludes to two different birds, neither of them the bulfinch: in the first passage we shall prove that he means the *pyrrhulas*; in the second, it is said to lay twenty eggs, to nestle in hollow trees, and to feed on insects, which character is true only of the black-headed titmouse.—This little discussion seemed to me the more necessary, as Belon has of all the naturalists discovered the most sagacity in referring the ancient names, and as the nomenclature is exceedingly embarrassing.

it seems to differ as much from the vermivorous birds by its instincts as by the shape of its bill: and it is not likely that Aristotle would overlook this circumstance.

To what other bird, then, can we ascribe these properties? I perceive none but the *red-tail*, which inhabits the woods with the red-breast, and also feeds on insects during the whole summer, and departs at the same time in winter. Wotton conceived that the pyrrhulas was a kind of red-tail *, and Johnston makes the same remark †; but the former was mistaken in supposing this bird to be the redstart, since Aristotle nicely distinguishes them.

The red-tail is actually very different from the redstart, and Aristotle and Gesner did well to separate them. It is larger than the redstart: it never visits our dwellings, nor nestles in the walls; but lives in the woods and bushes like the fauvettes and beccafigos: its tail is of a light vivid fire colour; the rest of the plumage consists of gray, especially on all the upper surface, and deeper and fringed with rusty on the quills of the wings, and with white gray, mixed confusedly with rusty, on all the fore part of the body: the rump is rufous, and so is the tail. Some have a fine black collar, and

* *Apud Gesnerum*, p. 701.

† *Pyrrhulas*, *Johnst.*

the colours over the whole of their plumage more lively and varied. Brisson has formed these into a second species *; but we conceive that they are only the males, and some very experienced bird-fanciers have confirmed our opinion. Brisson says, that the collared red-tail is *found in Germany*, as if it were peculiar to that country: but wherever the gray red-tails occur, the collared red-tails are equally frequent. Besides, he is mistaken in his reference; for the figure in Frisch, which he supposes to be the red-tail, is only the female of the blue-throated warbler.

We regard the collared red-tail, therefore, as the male, and the gray red-tail as the female: in both, the tail is equally red; but, besides the collar, the male has a deeper plumage, being a brown gray on the back, and gray spotted with brown on the breast and sides.

These birds prefer the hilly countries, and scarcely appear in the low grounds, except in their autumnal passage †. They arrive in the month of May in Burgundy and Lorraine,

* *Phœnicurus Torquatus*.

† “I have seen in Brie, in autumn, a bird which likewise had a very rufous tail, but different from the red-start: I thought it was the same with the *collier* of Nantua in its first year. Almost all these birds change their colour the first moulting, and all the birds which feed on insects are subject to migrations in autumn.” *Note communicated by M. Hebert.*

and

and soon bury themselves in the woods, where they remain all the summer. They breed in the small bushes near the ground; their nest consists of moss, and lined with wool and feathers; it is of a spherical shape, with its opening facing the east, and the most sheltered from the stormy winds; it contains five or six eggs, variegated with gray.

The red-tails leave the woods in the morning, and return to avoid the heat of the day; they emerge in the evening, and appear in the neighbouring fields, but again return to their abodes to pass the night. These habits, and many other features of resemblance, seem to imply that they belong to the genus of the redstart. The red-tails, however, have neither its song nor its warble; they utter only a feeble mellow note *suit*, and it dwells on the first syllable, and spins it out with great softness. They are in general silent, and exceedingly composed*: if a small detached branch projects from a bush or stretches across a path, they will alight on it,

* A red-tail taken in autumn and let loose in an apartment, made not the smallest cry, whether flying, walking, or resting. Shut in the same cage with a pettychaps, the latter darted every minute against the bars, while the former remained still whole hours in the same place, where the pettychaps dropped upon it at each spring; and it suffered itself to be thus trod upon all the time the pettychaps lived, that is, about thirty-six hours.

making a slight vibration with their tail like the redstart.

It answers the decoy, but does not rush on with the vivacity and eagerness of other birds; it seems only to follow the crowd. It is also caught near springs about the end of autumn; and it is then very fat, and has a delicate flavour. Its flight is short, and reaches only from bush to bush.—These birds depart in the month of October; they may for several days be seen following each other along the hedges; but after that time none of them remain in France. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Red-tail, *Motacilla-Erithacus*: “Its back and its wing quills are cinereous, its belly and tail quills rufous, the two outermost cinereous.” It is unknown in Britain.

THE GUIANA RED-TAIL.

Motacilla Guianensis, Gmel.

THE quills of the wings are of the same rufous colour as those of the tail; the back is gray, and the belly is white. We are unacquainted with its habits and economy; but it is probably related to the European kind, and its instincts nearly the same.—We received it from Cayenne.

THE

EPICUREAN WARBLER.

Le Bec-Figue, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Ficedula, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia-Ficedula, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula, *Aldrov. Gesner, Johnst. &c.*

Beccafico, *Olina, & Russel. Aleppo **

THIS bird, which, like the ortolan, is esteemed by the luxurious as the highest delicacy, is not remarkable for its beauty. All its plumage is of a dull colour; the only shades are gray, brown, and whitish, to which the blackish cast of the wing quills is added, without heightening the complexion: a white spot, which transversely intersects the wing, is the most conspicuous touch of its colours, and that which many naturalists have assumed for the character †: the back is brown gray, which begins on the crown of the head, and spreads to the rump; the throat is whitish; the breast lightly tinged with brown: the belly is white, and so are the outer webs of the

* In Greek Συκαλίδς, from συκος a fig: the Latin name, *Ficedula*, is formed from *ficus* a fig, and *edo* to eat: in German, *Grafz-mach* or *Wustling*.

† Frisch.—Briffon.—Aldrovandus.

two first quills of the tail; the bill is six lines in length, and slender. The alar extent is seven inches, and the total length of the bird is five: in the female, the colours are all duller and paler than in the male*.

These birds are natives of the south, and seem to visit our climate only to wait the maturity of the figs; they arrive late in the spring, and disappear before the earliest frosts of autumn. However, they spread in the summer over a great extent in the northern countries; for they are found in England †, in Germany ‡, in Poland §, and even in Sweden ||. They return in autumn to Italy and Greece, and probably advance to winter in still warmer regions. They seem to change their habits with their climate; for, in the countries of the south, they appear in flocks; while, in the temperate climates, they remain always dispersed: they inhabit the woods, feed on insects, and live in solitude, or rather in the endearing society of their female. Their nests are so artfully concealed, that it is very difficult to discover them ¶: during that season, the male

* Aldrovandus. † Willughby. ‡ Klein.

§ Rzaczynski. || Linnæus.

¶ “The beccafigo nestles in our forests, and, to judge from analogy, in the holes of trees at a great height above the ground, like the collared fly-catchers: for this reason the

male sits on the summit of some tall tree, and makes a feeble chirping, which is unpleasant, and much like that of the wheat-ear. The epicurean warblers arrive in Lorraine in April, and disappear in August, and sometimes later*. In that province, they are called *mulberry-birds*, or *little wood-finches*†, which has tended to mislead; for, at the same time, the name of *fig-pecker*‡ has been bestowed on the tit-lark, which is of a very different species. Nor are these the only mistakes that have been made in regard to the name. Belon presumes, because the bulfinch in Italy seems fond of figs, that it is the same bird with what is called in that country *beccafico*, and he infers that it is the real *ficedula*, to which Martial alludes. But the bulfinch is as different from the epicurean warbler in the taste of its flesh, which is bitter, as in the shape of its bill, in its colours, and in the rest of its figure. In our southern provinces, and in Italy, all the different species of fau-

are very difficult to be found. In 1767 or 1768, having seen or heard one of these birds sing, which was perched upon the summit of a very tall tree, I watched it attentively, and returned several times without being able to discover the nest, though I always saw the bird again. It had a feeble chirrup like the wheat-ear, by no means agreeable. It perched extremely high, and seldom came near the ground." *Note communicated by M. Lottinger.*

* Lottinger.

† *Mûriers*, or *petits pinçons des bois*.

‡ *Bec-figure*.

vettes are confounded under the name of fig-pecker, and almost all these birds have a slender long bill *; but the true fig-pecker, or epicurean warbler, is also well known and distinguished for the delicacy of its flavour.

Martial, who asks why this small bird, which feeds alike on grapes and on figs, did not assume the name of the former rather than that of the latter †, would have adopted the appellation which it receives in Burgundy, where we call it *vinette*; because it frequents vineyards, and lives on the grapes. Along with these, however, it eats insects also, and the seeds of the herb mercury. Its feeble chirp may be expressed by *bzi, bzi*; it flies by jerks; it walks, but never hops, and it runs along the ground in the vineyards, and mounts upon vines and hedge enclosures.

Though the epicurean warblers never journey till about the month of August, and never appear in flocks but then, in most of our provinces; yet they are seen in the middle of summer at Brie, where some of them probably build their nests ‡. In their passage, they fly in small bodies of five or six. They are caught

* Salerne.

† “ Cum me ficus alat, cum pascar dulcibus uvīs,
Cur potius nomen non dedit uva mihi ?”

MART.

‡ Hebert.

by the noose, the springe, or the mirror, in Burgundy and along the Rhone, where they make their appearance about the end of August, and in September.

It is in Provence where they are properly named fig-peckers, for they are constantly seen on the fig-trees pecking the ripest fruit. They never leave these, except for the shade and cover of the bushes and of the leafy horn-beam. They are caught in great numbers during the month of September in Provence, and in many islands of the Mediterranean, especially in Malta, where they appear at times in prodigious flocks; and it has been remarked that they are much more numerous during their passage in autumn, than at their return in spring*. The same is the case at Cyprus, where formerly they were articles of traffic: they were sent to Venice, in pots filled with vinegar and odoriferous herbs†. When Cyprus belonged to the Venetians, a thousand or twelve hundred of these pots were furnished

* Chevalier de Mazy.

† *Voyage de Pietro della Valle*, t. viii. p. 153. He adds, that in some places, as at *Agia Nappa*, those who eat beccaficos are sometimes attacked by disorders, owing to the scammony which these birds find in the neighbourhood; they feed also, in the islands of the Archipelago, on the fruits of the lentisc.

every year *; and the fig-pecker, or epicurean warbler, was generally known through Italy by the name of *Cyprus bird* (*Cyprias*, *uccello di Cypro*), which appellation, according to Willughby, was usual even in England.

This delicious bird has long been famous: Apicius mentions it more than once, with the little thrush, as both equally exquisite. Eustathius and Athenæus speak of the fowling for epicurean warblers †, and Hesychius preserves the name of a net with which they were caught in Greece. Nothing indeed is more delicate or juicy than the meat of these birds at the proper season; it is a pellet of light, savoury, melting f.t., of easy digestion; it is the extract of all the juices of the excellent fruits on which they feed.

We are acquainted with only one species, though the name has been bestowed on several ‡. If indeed we call every bird *fig-pecker* which pecks

* Dapper's Description of the Archipelago Islands.

† In Gefner.

‡ Aldrovandus gives (t. ii. p. 759) two figures of the fig-pecker, of which the second, according to himself, exhibits only a variety of the first, perhaps even accidental, and which, he says, may be called *the variegated fig-pecker*, *black and white being mixed through its whole plumage, as the figure shews*: but this figure shews only in that the white on the wing is a little broader, and there is some white on the fore side of the neck and on the breast; which constitutes only an individual variety.

the figs in that season, the fauvettes and all the birds with slender bills, and even some with thick bills, would be entitled to that appellation. Hence the Italian proverb, *Nel' mese d' Agosto ogni uccello e beccafico* (In the month of August every bird is a fig-pecker). But this vulgar saying, which very well expresses the delicacy of flavour that the figs give to the little birds which feed on them, would be a very vague and improper foundation for arrangement; and were it adopted, it would introduce the greatest confusion. Yet some naturalists have fallen into this error. *The hemp fig-pecker* of Olinia (*beccafico canapino*) is only the babbling warbler. The great warbler, or the pettychaps, is, according to Ray, called *beccafico* in Italy. Belon applies the same name to the rufous warbler; and we have just seen that he is still more mistaken in supposing that term belonged also to the *bulfinch*, to which he is, by consequence, led to assign the ancient appellations of the fig-pecker *sycalis* and *ficedula*. In Provence, several different birds are confounded under the name of fig-pecker. M. Guys has, among others, sent two, which we shall subjoin to this article, only to shew more distinctly that they are different birds. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Epicurean Warbler, *Metacilla Ficedula*: "It is somewhat brown, below white, its breast spotted with cinereous." It never appears in England.

THE FIST OF PROVENCE.

THE *fist*, so called by reason of its cry, was sent from Provence as a species of fig-pecker, or epicurean warbler. It is entirely different, and resembles much more the sky-lark, both in regard to size and plumage: the only material difference is, that his hind nail is not long. It chirps *fist, fist*; it does not spring when alarmed by noise, but runs to cover beneath a stone, till the danger is over, which implies that it commonly lives on the ground; a habit the reverse of that of the fig-pecker.

THE ORTOLAN PIVOTE.

THIS is another bird of Provence, which, though it is called the fig-pecker, is as different from it as the *fist*. It is a faithful companion of the ortolans, and always in their train. It resembles much more the tit-lark, only it is larger, and its hind nail not long.

B  L

N^o 126



THE RED-BREAST.

THE

RED-BREAST.

Le Rouge-Gorge, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Rubecula, *Linn. & Gmel. &c.*

Sylvia-Rubecula, *Lath. Ind.*

Rubecula, *Gesner, Briss. Klein, &c.*

Erithacus, *Aldrov.*

The Robin Red-breast, or Ruddock, *Will. **

THIS little bird passes the whole summer in our woods, and visits our habitations only at its departure in autumn, and its arrival in spring: but this last appearance is transient; it hastens to the forests to enjoy, under the new-spread foliage, its solitude and its love. Its nest is placed near the ground, on the roots of young trees, or on herbs that are able to support it; it is constructed with moss, intermixed with hair and oak leaves, and lined with feathers. Often after this is built, says Willughby, the bird strews it with leaves, preserving only a narrow winding entrance under the

* In Greek, *Ερυθραυγος*, or more properly *Ερυθραυγος*: in modern Latin, *Rubecula*: in Italian, *Pettiroffo*, *Pettusso*, *Pechi-etto*: in Portuguese, *Pitiroxo*: in Catalonian, *Pita Roity*: in German, *Roth-breustlein*, *Wald-roetele*, *Rot-kropff*, *Rot-breustle*, *Winter Roetele*, *Roth-keblein*: in Saxon, *Rot-kelchyn*, *Rott-kaeblichen*: in Polish, *Gil*: in Illyrian, *Czier-wenka*, *Zer Wenka*: in Swedish, *Rot-Gel.*

heap,

heap, and even shuts the mouth of it with a leaf when she goes abroad. The nest generally contains between five and seven eggs, of a brown colour. During the whole time of incubation, the cock makes the woods resound with his light, tender song: it is a sweet, delicate warble, enlivened with some brilliant modulations, and broken by graceful melting accents, which seem to be the expressions of amorous desire. The soft society of the female fills up his wishes, and makes him uneasy at the intrusion of other company. He keenly chases all the birds of his own species, and drives them from his little settlement; and never did the same bush lodge two pairs of red-breasts, as faithful as they are amorous*.

The red-breast prefers thick shade and watered spots; it feeds in the spring on worms and insects, which it hunts skilfully and nimbly. It flutters like a butterfly about a leaf where it sees a fly; and on the ground it advances by small springs, and darts on its prey, clapping its wings. In autumn, it also eats bramble-berries; and, on its departure, it feeds on the grapes of the vineyards, and on the sorbs in the woods; which is the reason that it is apt to be caught in the gins set for the thrushes, and which are baited with these small wild fruits. It resorts often to the springs, to bathe or drink,

* *Unum arbutum non alit duos erithacos.*

but most frequently in the autumn; for it is fatter at that season than at any other, and needs more to be cooled.

No bird is earlier awake than the red-breast; it begins the music of the woods, welcomes the dawn of day. It also protracts its warble to the latest hour, and is seen fluttering about in the evening. It is often caught in gins after there is scarce light sufficient for taking it up. It has little shyness; and its volatility, its restlessness, or its curiosity, hurry it into every sort of snare*. It is always the first bird that is caught by the decoy; even the voice of the fowlers, and the noise made in cutting the branches, attract it; and it alights behind them, and is entangled by the springe or limed twig, the instant they are set. It answers equally the scream of the brown owl, or the sound of the slit leaf of ivy†. Their feeble cry *uip, uip*, whistled on the finger, or the chirping of some other bird, is sufficient to put all the red-breasts round in motion. They fly to the spot, found-

* Of all birds that live in the state of liberty, the red-breast is perhaps the least shy: they often approach so near, that a person might think that he could catch them with the hand; but the bird keeps constantly retiring as he advances. It seems fond too of accompanying travellers through the forests, and it is often observed to precede or follow them a pretty long time. *Note communicated by the Sieur Tre-court.*

† The French bird-catchers call this *froulet*.

ing

ing from a distance *tirit, tiritit, tirititit*, with a sonorous ringing which is not their modulated air, but what they chirp in the morning and evening, and whenever they are excited by a new object. They brush eagerly through the whole of the call-ground, till they are stopped by some of the limed twigs, which are placed in the avenues, or fastened to poles that are made low on purpose to intercept their flight, which is seldom more than four or five feet from the surface: if one disentangles itself, it makes a third small cry *tî-tî, tî-tî*, which alarms the rest, and stops their further approach. They may also be caught in the open parts of the woods by means of poles, to which are fastened nooses and limed twigs; but the springes are the most sure and successful; nor is it requisite that these be baited; we need only set them in the edge of glades, or in the middle of paths, and the unfortunate little bird, pushed on by curiosity, will throw itself into the snare.

Wherever large forests spread, the red-breasts are found in abundance. In Burgundy and Lorraine particularly these birds, which are excellent food, are obtained in the greatest numbers: many are also caught in the neighbourhood of the small towns of Bourmont, Mirecourt, and Neufchâteau; and they are sent from Nancy to Paris. That province which is well wooded and watered, maintains
a vast

a vast variety of birds ; its situation too, bounded by the Ardenne on the one side, and skirted by the forests of Suntgau, which join the Jura, on the other, is exactly in the direction of the migrations ; and for this reason, the birds are most frequent in the time of their passage*. The red-breasts in particular are brought in immense quantities from the Ardennes, where Belon saw numbers caught in the season.—This species is diffused through the whole extent of Europe, from Spain and Italy to Poland and Sweden ; and in every country, these little birds prefer the mountains and the woods, to breed and spend the summer.

The young ones, previous to the first moult, are not painted with that fine rufous orange on the throat and breast, from which by a little straining the red-breasts derive their name. It tinges a few of the feathers by the end of August ; and before the end of September the birds have all the same plumage, and can no longer be distinguished†. About this time they prepare for their departure ; but they never

* Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 348.

† “ It is improperly called red-breast (*rouge-gorge*) ; for what we think to be red on the breast is orange, which rises from both sides below the bill, which is slender, taper, and black, and from below the two spaces of the eyes, and extends from the under part of the throat to the stomach.”

Id. ibid.

gather in flocks : they journey singly, one after another ; and, when all other birds associate together, the red-breasts still retain their solitary habits. They fly during the day from bush to bush ; but probably they rise higher in the night, and make more progress ; at least it has happened to fowlers in a forest which was full of these birds in the evening, and promised excellent sport next morning, that they were all gone before the dawn *.

The departure not being marked, or, to use the expression, not being proclaimed among the red-breasts, as among the other birds at that season collected in flocks, many stay behind ; and these are either the young and inexperienced, or some which can derive support from the slender resources of the winter. In that season they visit our habitations, and seek the warmest and most sheltered situations † ; and if any one still continues

* “ I remember one year to have spread my nets for the red-breasts in April ; and as they were very plenty, I continued the sport three days with equal success : on the fourth the sun rose brighter than ever, and the day was very mild ; I expected a large capture, but they had beat their march during my absence ; all were gone, and I did not take a single bird.”

† “ This bird being very delicate, and averse to excess of every kind, whether of heat or of cold, it retires in summer to the dense forests or the uplands, where it enjoys coolness and verdure ; in winter it approaches dwellings, and

tinues in the wood, it becomes the companion of the faggot-maker, cherishes itself at his fire, pecks at his bread, and flutters the whole day round him, chirping its slender pip. But when the cold grows more severe, and thick snow covers the ground, it approaches our houses, and taps on the window with its bill, as if to entreat an asylum, which is cheerfully granted*; and it repays the favour by the most amiable familiarity, gathering the crumbs from the table†, distinguishing affectionately the people of the house, and assuming a warble, not so rich, indeed, as that of the spring, but more delicate, and retained through all the rigours of the season, to hail each day the kindness of its

is seen among the bushes and in the gardens, especially where the sun strikes, which aspects it carefully seeks." *Olina, Uccelleria*, p. 16.

* Willughby, *Ornithol.* p. 160.

† "In a Carthusian monastery at Bugey, I saw red-breasts in the monks' cells, which they had been constrained to enter, after wandering some days in the cloisters. In three or four days, they were naturalised to such degree that they would come to eat on the table. They were well reconciled to the fare of the monastery; and passed thus the whole winter, protected from cold and hunger, without shewing the least desire to escape. But on the approach of spring they felt new desires; they tapped on the window with their bill; and after they recovered their liberty, they returned not till next winter." *Note of M. Hebert.*

landlord,

landlord, and the sweetness of its retreat*. There it remains tranquil, till the returning spring awakens new desires, and invites to other pleasures: it now becomes uneasy, and impatient to recover its liberty.

During this transient state of domestication, the red-breast eats almost every sort of food; it collects indifferently crumbs of bread, bits of flesh, or millet seeds. Olina asserts too generally, that, when taken from the nest, or caught in the woods, it should be fed with the same paste as the nightingale†: its appetite, we see, is not so delicate. Those which are allowed to fly freely about rooms, occasion but slight inconvenience; for their excrements are small and dry. The author of the *Ædonology*‡ pretends, that the red-breasts may be taught to speak; and this prejudice must be of an ancient date, since the same thing occurs in Porphyry§: but the fact is quite improbable, for the tongue of the bird is forked. Belon, who never heard it except in autumn, at which time it has only the little chirp, and not its full, impassioned

* I saw, at the house of one of my friends, a red-breast that had been afforded an asylum in the depth of winter, come to alight on his desk while he was writing. It sung whole hours with a feeble warble, sweet and melodious.

† P. 16. ‡ P. 93. § Lib. iii. *De Abstin. Animal.*

song

song of love, yet boasts of the charms of its voice, and compares it to that of the nightingale. From his own account, he appears to have taken the red-breast and the red-start for the same bird; but afterwards he distinguished them, both by their habits and by their colours*. Those of the red-breast are very simple: a coat of the same brown as the back of the throistle covers all the upper side of its body and its head; its stomach and belly are white; the orange rufous of the breast is less vivid in the female than in the male; their eyes are black, large, and even expressive, and their aspect mild; the bill is slender and delicate, as in all birds that live chiefly on insects; the *tarsus*, which is very small, is of a light brown, and so is the upper side of the toes, though they are of a pale yellow below. When full grown, the bird is five inches nine lines in length, and its alar extent eight inches; the intestinal tube is about nine inches long; the gizzard, which is muscular, is preceded by a dilatation of the *œsophagus*; the *cæcum* is very small, and sometimes entirely wanting. In autumn, the red-breasts are very fat; and their flesh is more delicate than that

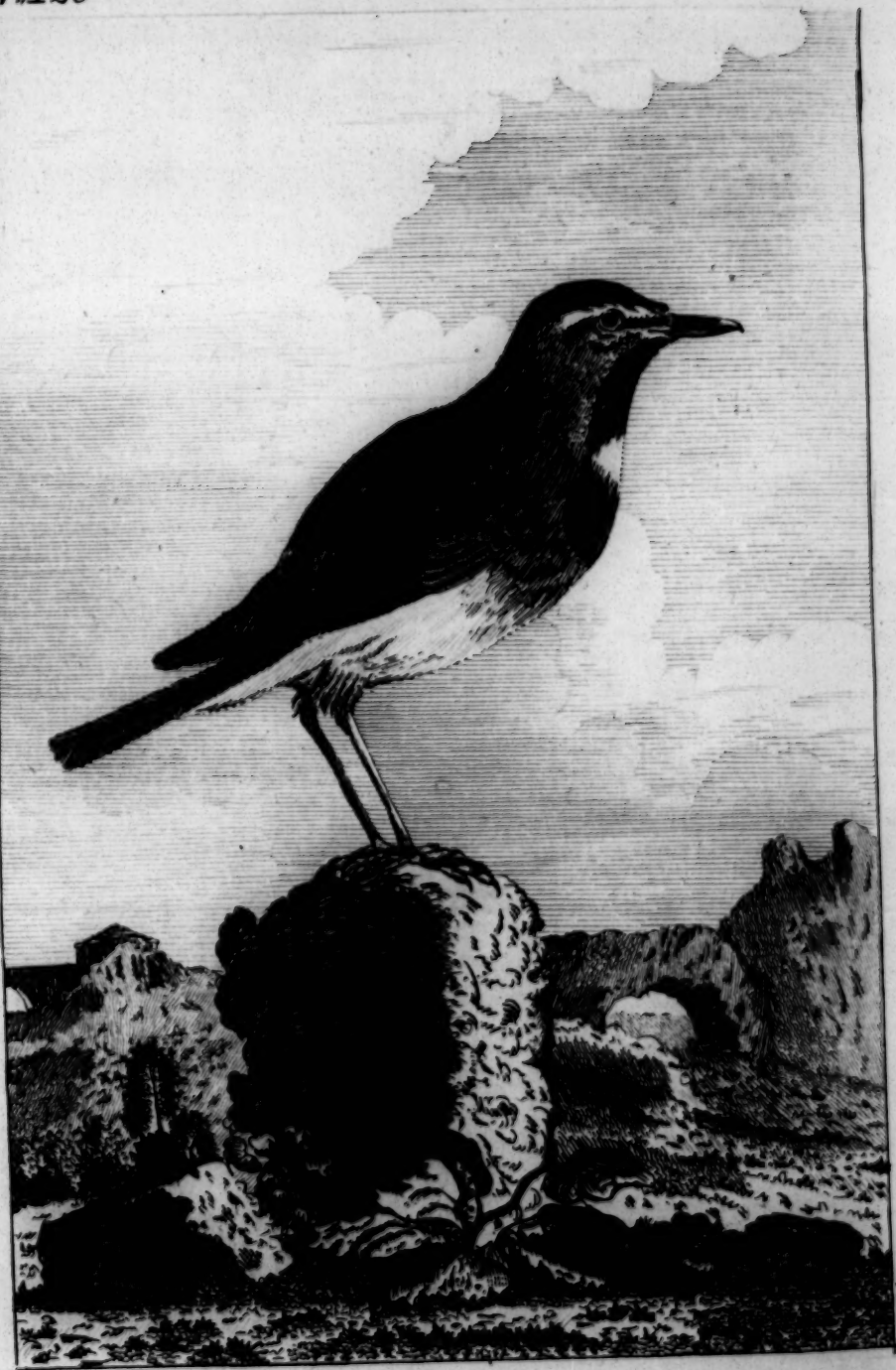
* "The red-start appears in the spring in towns and villages, and nestles in holes, when the red-breast has retired into the woods." Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 348.

of the throistle, but has something of its flavour, both feeding on the same fruits, particularly those of the service-tree. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Red-breast, *Motacilla-Rubecula*: "It is gray; its throat and breast ferruginous." Its egg is whitish, with reddish spots. The robins seem to continue in England the whole year.

B  L

N^o 126



THE BLUE - THROATED WARBLER.

THE

BLUE-THROAT.

Motacilla Suecica, Linn. Gmel. & Fris.

Sylvia Suecica, Lath. Ind.

Cyanecula, Briss.

Ruticilla Wegflecklin, Ray & Will.

The Blue-throated Red-start, Edw.

The Blue-throated Warbler, Penn. & Lath.*

IN its shape, its size, and its general appearance, this bird is an exact copy of the red-breast: the only difference is, that its throat is of a brilliant azure blue, while that of the other is orange red. Even in marking the discrimination between these birds, nature seems to point at their analogy; for beneath this blue space, we may perceive a black sash and an orange red zone which bounds the top of the breast: this orange tint again appears on the first half of the lateral quills of the tail; from the corner of the bill, a streak of rusty white passes over the eye; and in general the colours, though darker, are the same with those of the red-breast. They share also the same habits, only their haunts are different: the red-breast

* In German, *Wegflecklin*, or *Blau-Kehlein*: in Swedish, *Carls-Vogel*.

lives in the heart of the woods ; but the blue-throat frequents their skirts, and seeks marshes, wet meadows, and places that abound with willows and reeds : and with the same solitary instinct as the red-breast, it seems alike disposed to be familiar with man ; for, after the summer months are spent in its sequestered retreats, it visits the gardens, avenues, and hedges, before its departure, and ventures so near that it may be shot with the trunk.

Like the red-breasts, they never keep in flocks, and seldom more than two are seen together. In the end of summer, says Lottinger, the blue-throats alight in the fields that are sown with large sorts of grain. Frisch mentions fields of pease as their favourite haunt, and even pretends that they breed among these ; but their nest is more commonly found in the willows, the osiers, and other bushes which grow in wet situations : it is formed of herbs interwoven at the origin of the branches or boughs.

In the love season, the male mounts perpendicular to a little height in the air, chanting as he rises ; he whirls round, and drops back on his bough as cheerfully as the petty-chaps, of which the blue-throat seems to have some habits. He also sings in the night ; and, according to Frisch, his warble is very sweet. Hermann, on the contrary, informs us, that it

is

is not at all pleasant *. This contradiction is owing, perhaps, to the different times at which these observers heard the bird; for as great difference would have been found between the ordinary chirp of our red-breast, and its mellow, tender song in the spring, or its pretty warble which cheers the bright days of autumn.

The blue-throat is as fond of bathing as the red-breast, and oftener haunts the margins of water. It lives on worms and other insects; and in the season of its passage it eats elderberries. It may be seen among the fens, seeking its food on the ground, and running briskly, and cocking its tail, especially the male, when he hears the real or imitated voice of the female.

The young ones are of a blackish brown, and have not assumed the blue tint of the throat; the males have only some brown feathers amidst the white of the throat and breast. The female never has the whole of the blue space on the throat; she is only marked with a crescent or a bar below the neck: and on this difference, and on the figure of Edwards, who has given

* Doctor and Professor of Physic and of Natural History at Strasburg, who has been so obliging as to communicate some facts relating to the natural history of these birds.

the female only, Brisson makes a second species of his *Gibraltar blue-throat*, from which place the female seems to have come.

Among the adult males, some have the whole neck blue; and these are probably old ones, especially as the rest of the colours and the red zone of the breast appear deeper in these individuals. The others, which are more numerous, have a spot like a half collar, of a fine white, which Frisch compares to the lustre of polished silver*; and, from this character, the bird-catchers at Brandenburg have applied to the blue-throat the name of *mirror-bird*.

These rich colours tarnish and fade in confinement, and even after the first moulting. The blue-throats are caught with the noose, like the nightingales, and with the same bait. In the season when these birds are fat, they are much sought after, as are all the small birds which have delicate flesh; but they are rare, and even unknown in most of our provinces. They are seen at the time of their passage in low parts of the Vosges near Saneburg, according to Lottinger. But another observer assures us, that they never penetrate into the heart of those mountains on the south. They are more frequent in Alsace; and though they are spread

* Linnæus is probably mistaken when he describes this colour as a dull, yellowish white. *Fauna Suecica*.

through Germany, and even as far as Prussia, they are not very common in any part, and the species seems to be much less numerous than that of the red-breasts. Yet it inhabits a wide extent: from the epithet which Barrere applies to it *, we may infer that it is well known among the Pyrenees. We see, from the denomination of Brisson's *pretended* second species, that this bird is found even at Gibraltar. It is also seen in Provence, where the people call it *blue russet-bottom*. And from the name which Linnæus bestows, we might suppose that it is a native of Sweden †; but this proves only that the blue-throat visits the northern regions. It leaves them in autumn, and travels into milder climates in quest of food; and this habit, or rather this necessity, is common to the blue-throat, and all the birds which feed on insects, or on soft fruits. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Blue-throat, *Motacilla Suecica*: "Its breast is ferruginous, with a blue stripe; its tail quills dusky, and ferruginous near the base." It is found in the northern parts of Russia and Siberia, but unknown in England.

* *Motacilla Pyrenaica*. † *Motacilla Suecica*.

FOREIGN BIRD,

WHICH IS RELATED TO THE RED-BREAST
AND BLUE-THROAT.

THE BLUE RED-BREAST OF NORTH
AMERICA.

Motacilla-Sialis, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Sialis, Lath. Ind.

Rubecula Carolinensis Cærulea, Briss. & Klein,

The Blue Red-breast, Edw. & Cates.

The Blue Warbler, Penn. & Lath. Syn.

OUR red-breast is too weak, and its flight too short, for our supposing it to have crossed the Atlantic Ocean; and, as it cannot support extreme cold, it could not penetrate into America by the northern straits. But nature has produced its representative in those vast regions, which is found from Virginia and Carolina as far as Louisiana and the Bermuda islands. Catesby has given the first description of it, and Edwards has finished it; and both agree that it is closely related to the red-

red-breast of Europe*. It is rather larger than the red-breast, being six inches three lines in length, and its alar extent ten inches eight lines. Catesby remarks, that it flies swiftly, and that its wings are long; the head, the upper side of the body, of the tail, and of the wings, is of an exceeding fine blue, except the tip of the wing, which is brown; the throat and breast are of a bright yellow rust colour; the belly is white. In some subjects, as in the one delineated by Catesby, the blue tint of the head covers the throat also: in others, as in that of Edwards, the whole fore part of the body, as far as the bill, is covered with rufous. In the female, the colours are duller; the blue is mixed with blackish; the small quills of the wing, blackish, and fringed with white. The bird is of a mild disposition, and feeds only on insects: it nestles in the holes of trees—a difference in the mode of life suggested perhaps by the climate, where the numerous reptiles compel the birds to place the nests beyond their reach. Catesby tells us, that the blue warbler is very common through the whole of North America. That naturalist

* “Mr. Catesby has called this bird *Rubecula Americana*; which is a proper name enough, since both his bird and mine are certainly of that genus, of which the robin-red-breast is a species.” *Edwards*.

and

and Edwards are the only ones who have noticed this bird; and Klein merely copies their descriptions. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Sialis*: "Above, it is blue: below, entirely red; its belly white." It breeds in hollow trees, and is very harmless and familiar.

B  L

N^o 127

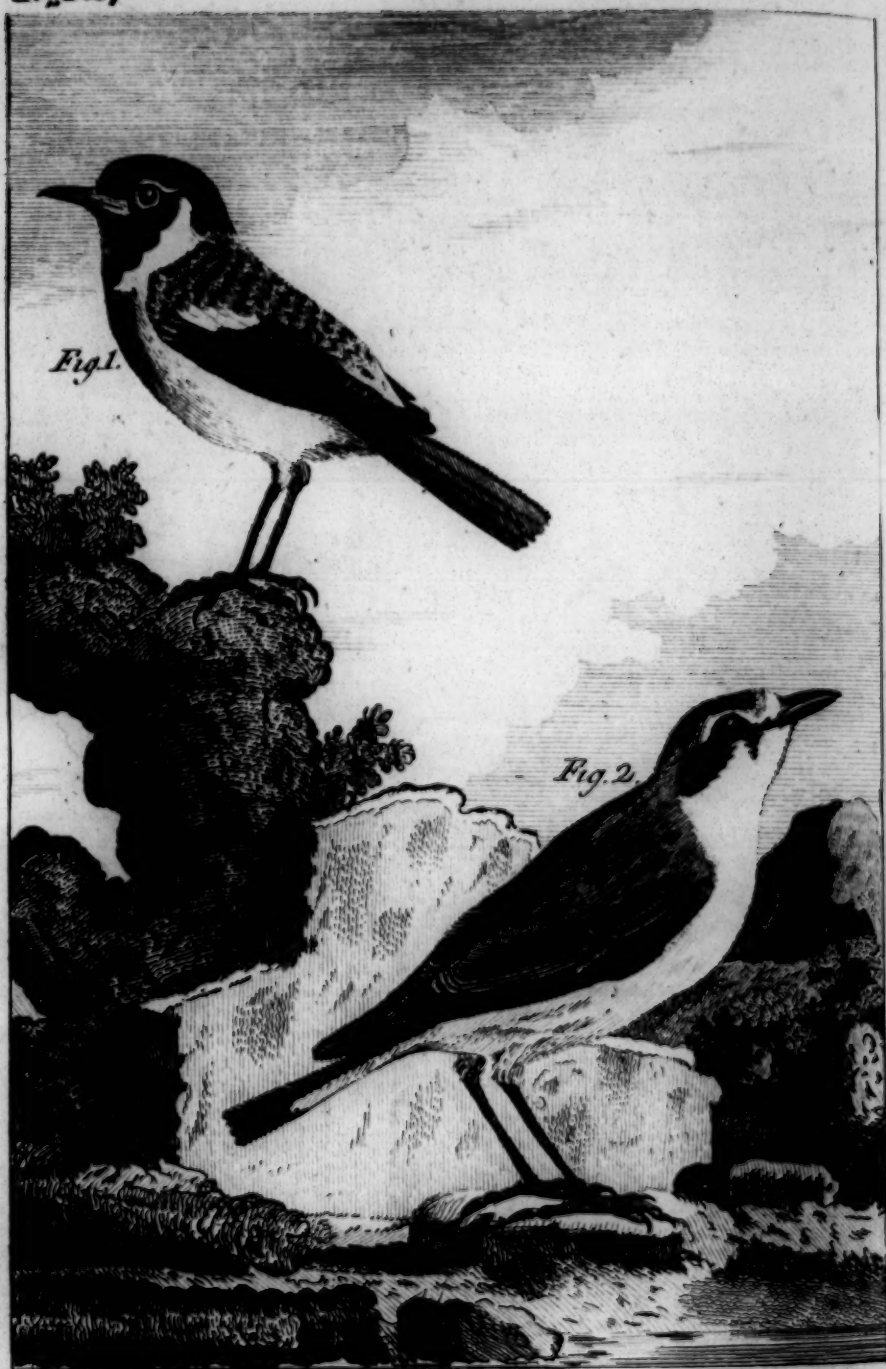


FIG. 1 THE STONE CHAT. FIG. 2. THE WHEAT-EAR.

THE STONE-CHAT.

Le Traquet, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Rubicola, *Linn. Gmel. Kram.*

Sylvia-Rubicola, *Lath. Ind.*

Rubetra, *Aldrov. Johnst. & Briff.*

Sylvia Lutea, capite nigro, *Klein.*

Cenanthe tertia, *Ray, Will. & Sibb.*

The Stone-smich, Stone-chatter, or Moor-titling,
*Will. Penn. Alb.**

THIS sprightly, active bird is never at rest. Fluttering from bush to bush, it alights only for a few seconds; and its wings are still spread, and ready to waft it to some other spot. It rises in the air by small springs, and falls back whirling round. This continual motion has been compared to that of a mill-clack (*traquet d'un moulin*); and hence, according to Belon †, the origin of its name.

* In Greek, *Balis*: in Italian, *Barada*, *Occhio di Bue* (ox-eye): in German, *Stein-schmeizer*. [Linnaeus very absurdly gives the stone-chat the name *Rubicola*; which, bating a slight variation in the orthography, is absolutely the same with *Rubecula*, which was appropriated to the robin. T.]

† *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 360.

Though

Though the stone-chat flies low, and never mounts to the summit of trees, it sits always on the tops of the bushes, or on the most projecting branches of the hedges and shrubs, or on the heads of Turkey wheat growing in the fields, and on the tallest props in the vineyards. It delights most in dry grounds, heaths, and upland meadows; and there it often utters its slender cry *wistratra*, in a low, smothered tone*. If it finds a detached stem or a stake in these meadows, it seldom fails to perch on it, which makes it easily be caught: a lime-twigg placed on a stick is sufficient for the purpose; and even the children are well acquainted with this sport.

From this habit of flying from bush to bush, and on thorns and brambles, Belon, who found this bird at Crete and in Greece, as well as in our provinces, applies to it the name *Balis* or *bramble-bird*, which Aristotle mentions once only †, observing that it feeds on worms. Gaza translates *Balis* by *rubetra*, which all the naturalists have referred to the stone-chat, especially as the epithet *rubetra* implies that the bird is reddish, and the bay colour of the breast of the stone-chat is conspicuous. It spreads, growing more dilute, under the belly: the ground co-

* Willughby's *Ornithology*, p. 170.

† *Hist. Anim.* lib. viii. 3.

lour of the back is a fine black, which is clouded with brown scales ; and the same disposition of tints extends to the crown of the head *, where the black, however, predominates ; the throat is of a pure black, only dashed with a few white waves and rises under the eyes. A white spot on the side of the neck is bounded by the black of the throat, and the bay colour of the breast ; the quills of the wings and tail are blackish, fringed with brown or light rusty ; there is a broad white line on the wing near the body, and the rump is of the same cast. All these tints are bolder and more intense in the old males than in the young ones ; the tail is square, and somewhat spread ; the bill is slender, and seven lines in length ; the head is pretty round, and the body compact ; the legs are black, slender, and ten lines in length ; the alar extent is seven inches and a half, and the total length four inches ten lines. In the female, the breast is of a dirty rusty colour, which, mixing with the brown of the head and the upper side of the body, obtains a blackish cast on the wings, and melts into the whitish under the belly and the throat ; which makes the plumage of the female appear dull, discoloured, and much less distinct than in the male.

* Belon.

The stone-chat builds its nest in waste lands, at the foot of bushes, under their roots, or beneath the cover of a stone, and enters it by stealth, as if afraid of being discovered: accordingly * the nest is difficult to be found †. It breeds about the end of March, and lays ‡ five or six eggs, of a blueish green, with light rufous spots, which appear obscure, but are most frequent at the big end. The parents feed their young with worms and insects, which they

* “The *blackfoot* (stone-chat) makes its nest in concealed spots. I found one plastered against a rock, two feet from the ground, in which were five young, covered with a black down. This nest was concealed by a holm-oak, and the parents were not afraid that the cattle should approach it; but they screamed much on the neighbouring trees, when I went near.” *Note communicated by the Marquis de Piolenc.*

† “They make their nest so nicely, and frequent it so secretly, that it is very difficult to be found. It has a great many young, which it feeds with living animals.” *Belon, Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 360.*—“The nest of the stone-chat is very difficult to discover; for the windings which the bird takes in entering or leaving it, render the search almost always fruitless. It never enters but through some neighbouring bushes; and when it issues forth, it flies likewise a short way among the bushes. A person might imagine, when he sees the bird dart briskly into a bush with a worm or other insect in its bill, that its nest was there; yet in vain would he look for it at that spot.”

Note communicated by the Sieur Treccourt.

‡ Nest found at Montbard, the 30th March.

continually

continually carry to them: and their anxiety seems redoubled when these begin to fly; they invite them back, rally them, and scream incessantly *wistratra*; and for several days they still bring them food.

The stone-chat is very solitary, and is always seen alone, except when the season of love gives it a companion*. Its disposition is wild, and its instinct dull and intractable: if it be sprightly in the state of freedom, it is as heavy† and inactive when reduced to domestication: it can be taught nothing, and it is even difficult to be raised‡. In the fields it suffers one to come very near it, and flies to a short distance, without seeming to notice the fowler: it appears, therefore, to have neither sense enough to love us, nor shun us.

* Belon and Aldrovandus.

† "The stone-chat is pensive: having opened the cage to one of these birds, in a garden, amidst bushes, and in a hot sun, it quickly flew to the open door, where it looked round it more than a minute before it took flight: its diffidence was so great as to suspend its love of liberty."

Note communicated by M. Hebert.

‡ "The stone-chats are wild, and difficult to raise. Those which I had, had a heavy look: sometimes they took sudden starts; but these were momentary, and they soon relapsed into their habitual lethargy. They hopped, from time to time, upon something elevated, shaking their wings and tail, and venting at intervals their cry *trac, trac*."

Note communicated by M. de Querboënt.

The

The stone-chats are very fat in the proper season; and, for the delicacy of their flesh, they may be compared to the epicurean warblers. However, they live only on insects, and their bill seems fit for nothing but grain. Belon and Aldrovandus assert, that they are not birds of passage: this may be true with respect to Greece and Italy; but it is certain, that, in the northern provinces of France, they shun the cold weather and the failure of the insects, for they depart in September.

Some refer to this species the bird called in Provence the *fourmeiron* or *anter* *, because it feeds chiefly on ants. The *anter* is solitary, and haunts only the ruins and rubbish of buildings: in cold weather, it sits on the chimney-tops, as if to warm itself †. This feature would

* “ The *fourmeiron* places itself at the hole of an ant-hill, so as to block it up completely; and the ants, pressing to get out, entangle themselves among its feathers: it then takes wing, and alights on some even ground, where it shakes its provision from its plumage; its table is spread, and it feasts on its game. Itself is good eating.”

Note of M. Guys, of Marfeilles.

† According to Mess. Guys and de Piolenc. But the latter, while he ascribes this habit to the *fourmeiron*, judges it foreign to the stone-chats. “ I have never heard (says he) that they love warmth; and I believe that I have seen them remove from the fires made in the fields to burn turf, which shews that they dislike smoke.” See the article of the Red-start.

induce

induce us to range it rather with the red-start than with the stone-chat, which constantly shuns towns and dwellings*.

In England, and particularly among the mountains of Derbyshire, there is a bird which Brisson terms the *English stone-chat*. Ray, who calls it the *coldfinch* †, says, that it is peculiar to that island: Edwards gives accurate figures of the male and female; and Klein mentions it by the name *variegated winged nightingale*. In fact, the white which marks not only the great coverts, but also the half of the small quills nearest the body, makes on the wing of this bird

* It is seen commonly in all places, but it never comes to the hedges of villages or towns. *Belon*, 360.

† *Muscicapa Atricapilla*, *Linn. Gmel. & Kram.*

Rubetra Anglicana, *Briss.*

Curruca tergo nigro, *Frisch.*

The Pied Fly-catcher, *Penn. & Lath.*

Specific character: "It is black; the under side, the spot on its front, and the spangle on its wings, white; its lateral tail quills, white exteriorly."—Thus described by Brisson: "Above, black; below, white; its rump variegated with black and white; a bright white spot on its forehead, and a white one on the wings; the lesser wing quills, white without, black within; the outermost, white exteriorly (*in the male*); above, dirty greenish brown; below, white; a yellowish white spot on the wings; the exterior wing quills, yellowish white; the inner, blackish;

bird a spot much broader than in the common stone-chat. Besides, the white colour covers all the fore and under part of the body, and makes a spot on the face; and the black spreads over the upper side of the body to the rump which is barred with black and white: the quills of the tail are black; the outermost, white exteriorly; and the great quills of the wing brown. All that is black in the male, is, in the female, of a dirty greenish brown; the rest is also white: in both, the bill and legs are black.—This bird is of the size of the ordinary stone-chat; and though it seems peculiar to England, and even to the hills of Derbyshire, it must migrate, for sometimes it is seen in Brie.

The species of the stone-chat is spread from England † and Scotland ‡, as far as Italy and Greece. It is very common in many parts of France. Nature seems to have exhibited it in the South, under various forms. We shall treat of these foreign stone-chats, after describing

the tail quills, blackish; the outermost, fringed exteriorly with white."

* It is found sometimes also in Shropshire and Flintshire. T.

† Willughby.

‡ Sibbald.

species which much resembles it, and inhabits the same climates. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Stone-chat, *Motacilla-Ru-*
cola: "It is gray; below, tawny; a white stripe on its
throat; its straps black." Its egg is blueish green, with
all rufous spots. Whether this species entirely leaves
England in winter, is uncertain.

bird a spot much broader than in the common stone-chat. Besides, the white colour covers all the fore and under part of the body, and makes a spot on the face; and the black spreads over the upper side of the body to the rump, which is barred with black and white: the quills of the tail are black; the outermost, white exteriorly; and the great quills of the wing, brown. All that is black in the male, is, in the female, of a dirty greenish brown; the rest is also white: in both, the bill and legs are black.—This bird is of the size of the ordinary stone-chat; and though it seems peculiar to England, and even to the hills of Derbyshire*, it must migrate, for sometimes it is seen in Brie.

The species of the stone-chat is spread from England † and Scotland ‡, as far as Italy and Greece. It is very common in many parts of France. Nature seems to have exhibited it in the South, under various forms. We shall treat of these foreign stone-chats, after describing a

the tail quills, blackish; the outermost, fringed exteriorly with white."

* It is found sometimes also in Shropshire and Flintshire. T.

† Willughby.

‡ Sibbald.

species which much resembles it, and inhabits the same climates. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Stone-chat, *Motacilla-Rubicola*: "It is gray; below, tawny; a white stripe on its throat; its straps black." Its egg is blueish green, with dull rufous spots. Whether this species entirely leaves England in winter, is uncertain.

THE

WHIN-CHAT.

Le Tarier.

Motacilla-Rubetra, *Linn. Gmel. Kram. Fris. Mull.*
& *Brun.*

Sylvia-Rubetra, *Lath. Ind.*

Rubetra Major, seu Rubicola, *Briss.*

Oenanthe secunda, *Ray & Will.*

Sylvia Petrarum, *Klein* *.

THE species of the whin-chat, though closely related to that of the stone-chat, ought yet to be separated from it, since both inhabit the same places without intermixing; as in Lorraine †, where they are very common, but live

* In German, *Flugen-Stakerle*, *Flugen-Stakerlin*, *Todten-Vogel*: in Silesian, *Noessel-Fincke*.

† “ There is another little bird, of the bulk of the stone-chat, different from all other birds, in its habits, its flight, and in its mode of living and of building its nest; which the inhabitants of Lorraine call *tarier*. It lives in bushes, like the stone-chat; and has a slender bill, calculated for flies and worms: its nails, its legs, and its feet, are black; but the rest of its body resembles that of the mountain-finch, for it has a whitish spot across the wing, like the finch and the stone-chat: however, its bill and its mode of life will not permit it to be ranged with the mountain-finches.—The male has spots on his back, and round his neck;

live distinct. Their habits are different, as well as their plumage. The whin-chat seldom perches; it is generally on the surface, among mole-hills, in fallow grounds, and in the high pasture lands beside the woods: the stone-chat, on the contrary, sits always in the bushes, or on vine-props. The whin-chat is also larger than the stone-chat, its length being five inches and three lines: the colours are nearly the same, only differently distributed; in the former, the upper side of the body is marked with brighter tints, each wing has a double spot, and a white line extends from the corner of the bill to the back of the head*; a black space lies under the eye, and covers the cheeks, but does not spread, as in the stone-chat, under the throat, which is of a light bay; this bay gradually softens, but may be distinguished on the white ground on all the fore part of the body; the rump is of the same white colour, though more intense, and speckled with black; all the upper side of the body, as far as the crown of the head, is of a black, grounded and spotted with brown; the small quills and the great coverts are black. Willughby

neck; his head resembles that of the mountain-finch; the extremities of the wings and of the tail are somewhat purple, as in that finch; but the bird is less spotted: some pretend that it is a species of stone-chat."

Belon, *Hist. des Oiseaux*, p. 361.

* Willughby,

P 3

says,

says, that the end of the tail is white : we have observed, on the contrary, that the quills are white in their first half from the root. But that naturalist himself found varieties in that part of the plumage of the whin-chat ; and mentions his having sometimes seen the two middle quills of the tail black, with a rufous border ; and, at other times, with the same edging on a white ground. The female differs from the male, in its colours being paler, and the spots on the wings being not so apparent : it lays four or five eggs, of a dirty white, dotted with black*.—The whin-chat builds its nest like the stone-chat ; it arrives and departs with it, participates of its solitary instinct, and seems even more shy and wild ; it prefers the mountainous tracts, and in some places it derives its name from that circumstance : thus the Bolognese fowlers call it *montanello* ; and the appellations which Klein† and Gefner‡ give to it, mark its fondness for solitude in bleak and rugged spots. The species is not so numerous as that of the stone-chat§ : it feeds also on worms, flies, and insects :

* Mr. Latham says, that the egg of the whin-chat is uniform sky blue. T.

† *Sylvia Petrarum*.

‡ *Passerculi* genus *solitarium*.

§ Belon.

lastly, it is very fat about the end of summer, and it is then scarcely inferior in delicacy to the ortolan. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Whin-chat, *Motacilla Rubra*: "It is blackish, its eyebrows white, a white spot on its wings, and its throat and breast yellowish." It is a bird of passage in Great Britain.

FOREIGN BIRDS,

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE STONE-CHAT
AND WHIN-CHAT.

I.

THE SENEGAL STONE-CHAT OR
WHIN-CHAT.

Motacilla Fervida, Gmel.

Sylvia Fervida, Lath. Ind.

The Sultry Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird is of the size of the whin-chat, and seems closer allied to it than to the stone-chat. Like the former, it has the double white spot on each wing, and no black on the throat; but it has not the black space under the eye; nor are its great wing coverts black, being only spotted black on a brown ground: in other respects, the colours are nearly the same as in the stone-chat or whin-chat, only they are more vivid over all the upper side of the body; the brown of the back is of a lighter rufous, and the black dashes are there better defined. This pleasing variety prevails from the

the crown of the head to the coverts of the tail; the middle quills of the wings are edged with rufous, the great ones with white, but more lightly; they are all blackish. But if the colours be more distinct on the upper side of this bird than in the common stone-chat, they are, on the contrary, duller below, only the breast is slightly tinged with a fulvous red between the white of the throat and that of the belly.—This bird was brought from Senegal by Adanson. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Fervida*: "It is brown; the margin of its quills rufous; below, ochry-white; two white spots on the wings; the tail black."

II.

THE STONE-CHAT FROM THE ISLAND OF LUÇON.

Motacilla-Caprata, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Caprata, Lath. Ind.

Rubetra Lucionensis, Briss.

The Luzonian Warbler, Lath. Syn.

THIS stone-chat is not quite so large as that of Europe, but it is rounder and stronger; its bill is thicker, and its legs not so slender. It is entirely of a dark brown, except a broad white
bar

bar on the coverts of the wing, and a little of a dull white under the belly. The female might, from its colours, be taken for a bird of quite a different species; a dun rufous covers all the under side of her body and the rump; the same colour shews itself on the head through the waves of a browner cast, which grow deeper on the wings and tail, and become of a very dull rusty brown.—The cock and hen were sent from the island of Luçon, where, Brisson says, they are called *maria-capra*. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Caprata*: "It is black; its rump, its vent, the spot on its wing coverts, white."

III.

STONE-CHAT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Motacilla Fulicata, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Fulicata, Lath. Ind.

Rubetra Philippensis, Brisson.

The Sooty Warbler, Lath. Syn.

IT is of a still deeper black than the male of the preceding. It is larger, being near six inches; and its tail longer than in any of the stone-chats; its bill and legs are also stronger: the only

only interruption of its plumage, which is black with violet reflexions, is the white spot on the wing. [A]

[A] Specific character: "It is dark violet, its vent chestnut, the spot on its coverts white."

IV.

THE GREAT STONE-CHAT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Motacilla Philippensis, Gmel.

Sylvia Philippensis, Lath. Ind.

Rubetra Philippensis major, Briff.

The Philippine Warbler, Lath. Syn.

THIS stone-chat is larger than the preceding, being somewhat more than six inches in length; its head and throat are white, dashed with some spots of reddish and yellowish: a broad brick-coloured collar decorates the neck; and, below it, a scarf of a blueish black covers the breast, and extends to the back, forming a short cope, with two large white spots thrown on the shoulders; the rest of the upper side of the body is black, with violet reflexions to the end of the tail; this black is intercepted on the wing by
two

two small white bars, the one on the outer edge near the shoulder, the other at the extremity of the great coverts; the belly and stomach are of the same reddish white with the head and throat; the bill, which is seven lines long, and the legs, which are thick and stout, are of a rust colour. Brisson says that the legs are black, and perhaps their colour varies: the wings reach to the end of the tail, which is different from what obtains in all other stone-chats, where the wings scarcely extend to the middle of the tail.

V.

THE FITERT OF MADAGASCAR
STONE-CHAT.

Motacilla-Sybilla, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Sybilla, Lath. Ind.

Rubetra Madagascarenfis, Briss.

The Sybil Warbler, Lath. Syn.

BRISSON has given a description of this bird, which we find to be very exact, on comparing it with a specimen sent to the King's cabinet. He tells us, that it is called *fitert* at Madagascar, and that its song is pleasant; this seems to shew, that it is different from our stone-chats, which

which have only a disagreeable chirp: they agree, however, in several prominent characters. It is rather larger than the European stone-chat, being five inches four lines in length; the throat, the head, and all the upper side of the body to the tail, are black, only the back and shoulders have some rusty waves; the fore part of the neck, the stomach, and the belly, are white; the breast is rufous; the white colour of the neck is set off by the black of the throat and the rufous of the breast, and forms a sort of collar; the great coverts of each wing which are next the body are white, which makes a white spot on the wing; a little white also terminates the quills of the wing on their inside, and augments in proportion as they are nearer the body. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Sybilla*: "It is blackish, below white, the breast rufous, a white spot on the wings."—Thus described by Brisson: "Above, black; the feathers fringed with rusty at their tips; the breast rufous; a bright spot on the wings; the quills of the tail black."

VI.

THE GREAT STONE-CHAT.

Motacilla Magna, Gmel.

Sylvia Magna, Lath. Ind.

The Dark Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS stone-chat well deserves the epithet of *great*. It is seven inches and a quarter from the point of the bill to the extremity of the tail; and six inches and an half from the point of the bill to the end of the nails; the bill is an inch long, and not scalloped; the tail is about two inches, and is a little forked; the wings, when closed, cover the half of it; the *tarsus* is eleven lines; the mid toe seven, the hind one seven, and its nail the strongest of them all. Commerfon has left an account of this bird, but makes no mention of the country where he saw it; however, the description we give of it is sufficient to enable travellers to recognise it. The chief colour of its plumage is brown; the head is variegated with two brown tints; a light brown covers the upper side of the neck and body; the throat is mixed with brown and whitish: the breast is brown; and this is also the colour of the coverts of the wings, and of the outer edge of the quills, their

their inside being divided by rufous and brown; and this brown appears again at the extremity of the quills of the tail, and covers the half of the middle ones, the rest being rufous; and the outside of the two outer feathers is white; the under side of the body is rusty.

VII.

THE STONE-CHAT OF THE CAPE
OF GOOD HOPE.

Sylvia Sperata, Lath. Ind.

M. DE ROSENEUVETZ saw, at the Cape of Good Hope, a stone-chat which has never been described by naturalists. It is six inches long; the bill black, and seven lines in length, scalloped near the tip; the legs black; the *tarsus* an inch long: all the upper side of the body, including the neck and head, of a very brown green; all the under side of the body, gray, with some tints of rufous; the rump is rufous; the quills and the coverts of the wings are brown, with a lighter border of the same colour; the tail is twenty-two lines in length, and the wings reach to its middle; it is somewhat forked: the two
middle

middle quills are of a blackish brown ; the two side ones are marked obliquely with brown on a fulvous ground, and this is the more remarkable in proportion as they are exterior. Another specimen, of the same size, brought also from the Cape of Good Hope by M. de Rose-neuvetz, and deposited in the Royal Cabinet, is perhaps only the female. The whole upper side of the body is merely of a blackish brown, the throat whitish, and the breast rufous. We are unacquainted with the habits of these birds ; yet these are what alone form the interesting part of the history of animated beings. But how often have we been forced to regret, that we could only describe the appearance, and not delineate the character ! All these incomplete facts ought however to be collected, and placed beside the immense range of observations ; as the navigators insert in their charts the lands seen at distance.

VIII.

THE SPECTACLE WARBLER.

Le Clignot, ou Traquet à Lunette, *Buff.*

Motacilla Perspicilla, Gmel.

A CIRCLE of yellowish skin folded quite round the eyes, and resembling spectacles, is a singular character which distinguishes this bird. Commerſon found it on the river *de la Plata*, near Montevideo, and the appellations* which he gives to it, allude to this uncommon conformation of the exterior of the eyes. It is of the ſize of a goldfinch, but thicker in the body: its head is round, and the crown raiſed: its plumage is of a fine black, except the white ſpot on the wing, which makes it reſemble the ſtone-chats; this ſpot ſpreads broad over the middle of the five firſt quills, and terminates in a point about the end of the ſixth, ſeventh, and eighth. In ſome ſubjects, there is alſo white on the lower coverts of the tail; in others, they are black as the reſt of the plumage: the wing reaches only to the middle of the tail, which

* *Perspicillarius, Nictitarius, Lichenops, Clignot.*

is two inches long, square when it is closed, and forming almost an equilateral triangle when it is spread; it consists of eight equal quills: the bill is straight, slender, yellowish at the upper part, and slightly bent or hooked at the end: the tongue is membranous, like a double-pointed arrow: the eyes are round; the iris yellow, and the pupil blueish. The singular membrane which encircles the eyes, is probably nothing but the skin of the eye-lid naked and more expanded than ordinary, and consequently broad enough to make several folds. Such at least is the idea which Commerſon ſuggeſts by comparing it to the wrinkled lichen, and telling us that the two portions of this membrane, which is fringed at the edges, meet when the bird ſhuts its eyes. We may alſo obſerve the *membrana nictitans*, which riſes from the inner *canthus*. The legs and toes are ſlender and black; the hind toe is the thickeſt, and is as long as thoſe before, though it has only one joint, and its nail is the ſtrongeſt. Could this bird be bred ſeparate from the reſt of its kind, and exiled in the middle of the new continent? It is at leaſt the only one in America that is known to be related to the chats; but the analogies which it bears to them are not ſo ſtriking as the character which diſtinguiſhes it, and which nature has im-
preſſed

pressed as the stamp of those foreign lands which it inhabits. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Perspicillata* :
“ It is black, the coverts of the wings marked with a white spot; the tail equal; the orbits naked, yellowish, and wrinkled.”

THE

W H E A T - E A R.

Le Motteux, *Buff.* *

Motacilla-Ænanthe, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia-Ænanthe, *Lath. Ind.*

Ænanthe, *Gesner, Johnst. &c.*

Vitiflora, *Briss. & Klein.*

Culo Bianco, *Zinn.*

The Wheat-ear, Fallow Smich, or White-tail, *Penn. Alb. Edw. & Lath.†*

THIS bird is common in the country, and is continually among the clods in new-tilled fields, and hence its name in French †. It follows the furrow traced by the plough, and searches for worms on which it feeds. When it is scared away, it never mounts high, but

* The old name in French was *Vitrec*; the vulgar one at present *Cul Blanc*.

† In Greek, *Οὐρανθή*, according to Belon, from *οὐρα* a vine, and *ανθή* a flower: the Latin *Vitiflora* is a translation of the Greek: in Italian, *Culo Bianco*, *Fornarola*, *Petragnola*: in German, *Stein-Schwaker*, *Stein-Schnapperl*: in Swedish, *Stenf-guetta*: in Norwegian, *Steen-Dolp*, *Steen-Gylpe*.

‡ *Motteux*, from *motte* a clod.

skims

skims along the surface with a short rapid flight, and in its retreat it shews the white of the hind part of its body, by which it is easily distinguished in the air from all other birds, and hence its vulgar appellation among fowlers, *cul-blanc* *. It is also pretty frequent in fallow grounds, where it flies from stone to stone, and seems to shun the hedges and bushes, on which it does not perch near so often as on clods.

It is larger than the whin-chat, and taller, on legs which are black and slender; the belly is white, and so are the upper and under coverts of the tail, and nearly the half of its quills, of which the tips are black; they spread when it flies, and expose the white for which it is remarkable: the wing in the male is black, with some fringes of rusty white: the back is a fine ash gray or blueish gray, which extends to the white ground; a white spot rises at the corner of the bill, bends under the eye, and stretches beyond the ear; a white stripe bounds the face, and passes over the eyes. The female has neither this spot nor this stripe; its plumage is marked with a rusty gray wherever that of the male is ash gray; its wing is more brown than black, and broad fringed as far as below the

* White Arse.

belly ; and on the whole it resembles as much, or more, the hen whin-chat than its proper male. The young resemble the parent birds exactly at the age of three weeks, the time at which they fly.

The bill of the wheat-ear is slender at the tip and broad at the base, which enables it to seize and swallow the insects, on which it runs, or rather darts, rapidly by a succession of short hops *. It is always on the ground ; and if it be put up, it only removes from one clod to another, flies always exceedingly low, and never enters the woods, nor perches higher than the hedges or small bushes. When seated it wags its tail, and chirps with a dull sound *titreû, titreû* † ; and, as often as it flies, it seems to pronounce distinctly, with a stronger voice, the words *far-far, far-far* : it repeats these two cries with a degree of precipitancy.

It breeds under the tufts and clods in newly ploughed fields, and under stones in fallow grounds, near quarries, in old rabbit burrows ‡, or in the naked stone walls which are used for fences in hilly countries. Its nest is constructed with care : it is composed of moss or tender grass, and lined with feathers

* Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 352.

† Hence perhaps its old French name *vitrec*, or *titrée*.

‡ Willughby.

or wool; it is distinguished by a sort of covert placed above it, and stuck to the stone or clod under which the whole is formed. It lays generally five or six eggs, of a light blueish white, with a circle at the large end of a duller blue. A female, which was caught on the eggs, had lost all the feathers from the middle of the stomach, as usual in the case of vigilant sitters. The male is attentive to his mate, and during the time of incubation he brings ants and flies: he watches near the nest; and when he observes one passing, he runs or flies before, and endeavours to draw notice till the person has got to a sufficient distance, and then he returns by a circuit to the nest.

The young ones are seen as early as the middle of May; for these birds have returned to our provinces as early as the first fine days in March*. But frosts often surprise them after their arrival, and numbers perish; as happened in Lorraine in 1767†. There are many of them in that province, especially in the mountainous part: they are equally common in Burgundy and Bugey; but they are hardly seen in Brie, except towards the end of the summer‡. In general they prefer high countries, upland plains, and arid tracts. Great

* Lottinger.

† Id.

‡ Hebert.

numbers are caught by the English shepherds in the downs of Suffex about the beginning of autumn, at which time they are plump and of delicate flavour. Willughby describes the method of catching them: they cut up a long strip of turf, and invert it on the furrow, so as to leave only a narrow track, in which they place snares made of horse hair. The birds are incited by a double motive; to procure food in the new-turned earth, and to conceal themselves under the sod. The appearance of a hawk, or even the shadow of a cloud, will drive them for shelter into those traps*.

They all return in August and September, and no more are seen after that month. They journey in small bands; and in general they are of a solitary disposition, and no society exists among them but that of the male and female. Their wings are large †, and though

* Mr. Pennant tells us, that in the district of *Eastbourn* in Suffex, one thousand eight hundred and forty dozens of wheat-ears are at an average caught annually, which are sold commonly for sixpence a dozen. The reason why these birds are so numerous in that neighbourhood, is said to be the abundance of a certain species of fly, on which they feed. T.

† Brisson says, that the first of the wing quills is extremely short: but the feather which he takes to be the first of the great quills is only the first of the great coverts, inserted under the first quill, and not at the side of it.

among us they make little use of their power of flying, they probably exert it in their migrations. They must have once done so: for they are among the few birds which are common to Europe and the south of Asia; since they are found in Bengal, and inhabit the extent of Europe, from Italy to Sweden.

The appellations * which the wheat-ear receives in different parts of France, allude to its habits of living on the ground and in the holes; of sitting on the clods, and appearing to strike them with its tail. Its English names refer to its frequenting both fallow and tilled grounds, and to the whiteness of its rump. But the Greek term *ænanthe*, which naturalists have, from a conjecture of Belon, agreed to apply to it, seems not so characteristic or so proper as the preceding. The mere analogy of the word *ænanthe* to *vitiflora*, and the resemblance of this to the old French name *vitrec*, led Belon to form this opinion; for he does not explain why it was called *vine-flower* (οὐινανθῆ). It also arrives before the blowing of the vine, and continues long after the blossom is dropped; and it has therefore no connexion with the flower of the vine. Aristotle describes it only

* *Motteux*, *Tourne-motte*, *Brise-motte*, & *Terrasson*, i. e. clodder, turn-clod, break-clod, and earth-thrower.

as appearing and disappearing at the same time with the cuckoo *.

Briffon reckons five species of wheat-ears:

I. THE WHEAT-EAR.

II. THE GRAY WHEAT-EAR, which he discriminates from the first only by that epithet, though that is equally gray. Its difference, according to Linnæus, who makes it a variety, is, that the plumage, which is of a pale colour in both, is marked with small whitish waves. Briffon adds another slight distinction in the breast feathers, which are, he says, sprinkled with little gray spots; and in those of the tail, of which the two middle ones have no white, though the rest are white three fourths of their length. But the minute details of the various tints of the plumage would easily transform the same individual into several species; we have only to describe it nearer or farther from the season of moulting †. To examine the productions

* *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49. Pliny says the same of the disappearance of the *œnanthe*, lib. x. 29. From this passage, Father Hardouin infers that the *œnanthe* is not the wheat-ear, but a nocturnal bird.

† Young wheat-ears, taken the 20th of May, had the upper part of their body mottled with rusty and brown: the feathers

productions of nature in this way is to lose sight of her design; it is to mistake the sportive superficial touches of her pencil, for the deep permanent strokes with which she has engraved the characters of animals.

III. The third species of Brisson is THE CINEREOUS WHEAT-EAR*; but the differences which he marks are too slight to discriminate them, especially since the epithet *cinereous* agrees as well with the common wheat-ear, of which this is only a variety. Thus the three pretended species are reduced to one. But the fourth and fifth species of Brisson are more decidedly distinguished, viz. *The Rusty White-Tail*, and *The Rufous White-Tail*.

THE RUSTY WHEAT-EAR †, which is Bris-

son's feathers of the rump are whitish, striped lightly with black; the throat and the under side of the body rufous, dotted with black; all this livery is cast the first year.

* "Above cinereous white, mixed with gray brown; below white; the rump gray brown; the lower part of the neck light tawny; the forehead bright white; a black spot below the eyes: of the two middle quills of the tail their first half is white, and the other blackish; the lateral ones white, terminated with blackish; the three outermost on both sides fringed with whitish at the tips." *Brisson*.

† "White; the top, the upper part of the back, and the breast, dilute tawny; a black bar on the eyes; the two middle tail quills black, fringed with black on both sides near the tip."

son's

son's fourth species, is rather less than the common wheat-ear, being only six inches and three lines in length: the head, the fore part of the body, and the breast are whitish, mixed with a little rufous; the belly and the rump are of a lighter white; the upper side of the neck and back is light rusty. It might be readily taken for the female of the common wheat-ear, if some individuals had not the character of the male, the black stripe on the cheek between the bill and the ear; so that this would seem to be a permanent variety. It is found in Lorraine near the mountains; but it is not so frequent as the ordinary species. It also inhabits the vicinity of Bologna in Italy; and Aldrovandus calls it *strapazzino*. Brisson tells us that it occurs in Languedoc, and that at Nimes it is termed *reynauby*.

The fifth species of Brisson * is THE RUFOUS WHEAT-EAR. Both male and female have

* *Motacilla Stapazina*, Gmel.

Sylvia Stapazina, Lath. Ind.

Specific character: "It is ferruginous; its wings brown; the space about its eyes and its tail black; its outermost tail quill white at the edge." Thus described by Brisson: "Yellowish rufous; its rump and lower belly white (the cheeks and throat black *in the male*; a black bar on the eyes *in the female*); the two middle tail quills black; the lateral ones white, fringed with black."

been

been described by Edwards, who received them from Gibraltar. One of them had not only the black stripe between the bill and the ear, but its throat was entirely of the same colour: a character that was wanting in the other, whose throat was white, and the tints paler; the back, the neck, and the crown of the head were of a yellow rufous; the breast, the top of the belly, and the sides, were of a diluter yellow; the lower belly and the rump, white; the tail white, fringed with black, except the two middle quills, which are entirely black; those of the wing are blackish, and their great coverts edged with light brown. This bird is nearly the size of the common wheat-ear. Aldrovandus, Willughby, and Ray speak of it under the name of *œnanthe altera*. We may regard it as a species closely related to the common wheat-ear, but much less frequent in the temperate countries. [A].

[A] Specific character of the Wheat-ear, *Motacilla-œnanthe*: "Its back is hoary; its front white; a black stripe on the eyes." In England the wheat-ears arrive between March and May, and retire in September.

FOREIGN

FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE WHEAT-EAR.

I.

THE GREAT WHEAT-EAR, OR WHITE
TAIL OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.*Motacilla Hottentotta, Gmel.**Sylvia Hottentotta, Lath. Ind.**The Cape Wheat-ear, Lath. Syn.*

M. De Roseneuvetz sent us this bird, which has not been described by any naturalist. It is eight inches long; its bill ten lines, its tail thirteen, and the *tarsus* fourteen. It is much larger than the European kind: the upper side of the head is slightly variegated with two browns, whose tints melt into each other; the rest of the upper side of the body is fulvous brown as far as the rump, where there is a transverse bar of light fulvous; the breast is variegated, like the head, with two shades of brown, which are confused and indistinct; the throat is dirty white, tinged with brown; the
higher

higher part of the belly and the flanks are fulvous; the lower belly is dirty white, and the inferior coverts of the tail light fulvous; but the superior ones are white, and so are the quills as far as their middle: the rest is black, terminated with dirty white, except the two middle ones, which are entirely black, and tipped with fulvous; the wings are of a brown cast, edged slightly with light fulvous on the great quills, and more slightly on the middle quills and on the coverts.

II.

THE GREENISH BROWN WHEAT-EAR.

Motacilla Aurantia, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Aurantia, *Lath. Ind.*

The Orange-breasted Wheat-ear, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS species was also brought from the Cape of Good Hope by M. de Roseneuvetz. It is smaller than the preceding, being only six inches long; the upper side of its head and body is variegated with black, brown, and greenish brown: these colours also mark distinctly the coverts of the wings; but the great coverts

coverts of the wings, and those of the tail, are white: the throat is dirty white; there is also a mixture of that colour and of black on the fore part of the neck: the breast is tinged with orange, which grows dilute below the belly; the inferior coverts of the tail are entirely white; the quills are blackish brown, and the lateral ones are tipped with white. This bird has, still more than the preceding, all the characters of the common wheat-ear, and we can scarcely doubt that their habits are nearly the same.

III.

THE SENEGAL WHEAT-EAR.

Motacilla Leucorhoa, Gmel.

Sylvia Leucorhoa, Lath. Ind.

The Rufous Wheat-ear, Lath. Syn.

IT is rather larger than the European species, and resembles the female exactly; only the back has a little more of the reddish cast. [A]

[A] Specific character: "Dusky rufous; below ochry white; the rump, the coverts, and the base of the tail, white."

THE
WAGTAILS.

THE White Wagtail (*Lavandiere*) has often been confounded with the other kinds (*Bergeronettes*): but the former commonly haunts the sides of pools, and the others frequent the meadows, and follow the flocks. All of them flutter often in the fields round the husbandman, and attend the plough to pick up the worms that crawl in the fresh-turned soil. At other seasons, the flies which molest the cattle, and all the insects which swarm on the margin of stagnant water, are their food. The wagtails are real *fly-catchers*, if we regard only their manner of life: but they differ from these birds, because they do not watch their prey from trees, and hunt it: they only search on the ground. They form a small family of birds with a delicate bill, tall and slender legs, and a long tail, which they vibrate incessantly: and, from this habit, they have been termed *Motacilla* by the Romans, and received their various names in the provinces of France.

THE
WHITE WAGTAIL.

La Lavandiere, *Buff.*

Motacilla Alba, *Linn. Gmel. Kram. Fris. Mull. Will.*

Motacilla, *Briss.*

Sylvia Pectore Nigro, *Klein.*

Coda Tremula, *Zinn.*

Ballarina, *Olina.*

Bachstelzen, *Gumh. & Wirf.**

BELON, and, before him, Turner, applied to this bird the Greek name *κνιπτο-λογος*, rendered into Latin by *culicilega* or *gnat-gatherer*; and that appellation would suit the wagtail,

* In Latin, *Motacilla*: in Italian, *Ballarina*, *Coda-tremula*, *Codin-zinzola*, *Cutretola*, *Bovarina*: in Catalonian, *Cugumela*, *Marllenga*: in Portuguese, *Aveloa*: in German, *Wyffe Wasser Steltze* (white water-stilts), *Bach Steltze* (brook-stilts), *Weisse und Schwartzte Bach Steltze* (white and black brook-stilts), *Wege-Stertze* (weigh-tail), *Kloster-Stertze* (cloister-tail): in Flemish, *Quick-Stertz*: in Swedish, *Aerla*, *Saedes-Aerla*: in the dialect of Ostrobothnia, *WaeStraeckia*: in Norwegian, *Erle*, *Lin-Erle*: in Danish, *Vip-Stiert*, *Havre Saer*: in Polish, *Pliska*, *Trzeshogonek Bialy*.

Near Montpellier it is called *Enguane-Pastre*: in Guyenne, *Peringleo*: in Saintonge, *Batajoffe*: in Gascony, *Batiquoüe*: in Picardy, *Semeur*: at Nantes, and in Orleanois, *Bergeronette*,

N^o 128

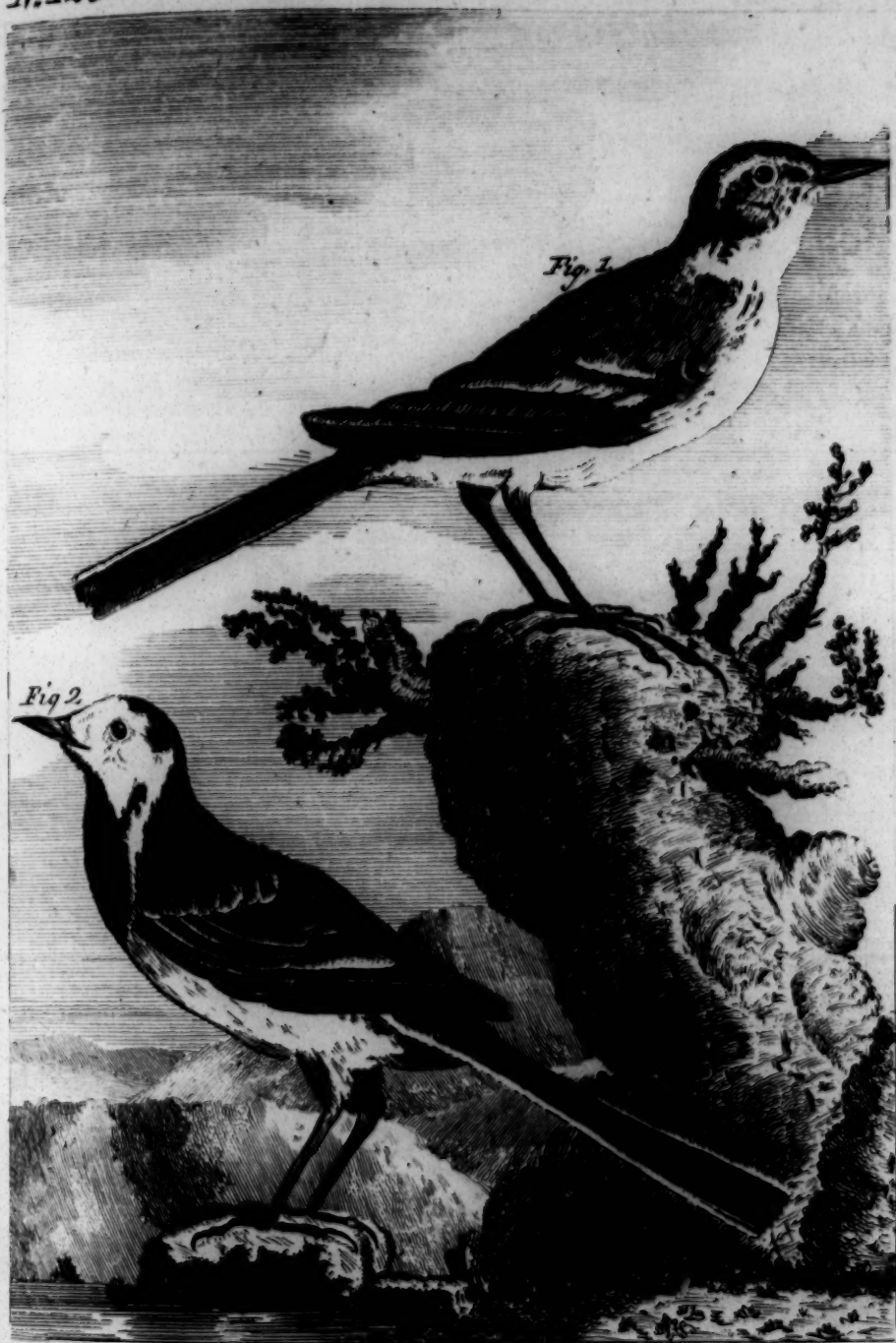


FIG. 1. THE WHITE WATER WAGTAIL. FIG. 2. THE SHEPHERDESS.

B  L

wagtail, though I am confident the κνιπολογος was quite a different bird.

Aristotle (lib. viii. c. 3.) speaks of two wood-peckers (δρυο καλαπίδας)*, of the golden oriole (κολιος, or *galgulus*), as lodging in trees, which they strike with their bill. To these must be joined, he says, the little gnat-gatherer (κνιπολογος) †, which is spotted with gray, and hardly so large as the goldfinch, and with a feeble voice. Scaliger properly observes that a *lignipeta* (ξύλοκοπων) ‡, or pecker of trees, cannot be a wagtail. A gray speckled plumage is different from that of the wagtail, which is intersected with great bars, and mottled with white and black spots. Nor are the characters of size and of feeble voice applicable to the wagtail, of which we cannot discover either the name or the description in the Greek authors; though all these properties belong to the common creeper§.

Bergeronette, or *Vachette*: in Lorraine, *Hoche-Queue*: in Burgundy, *Crosse-Queue*, *Branle-Queue*: in Bugey, *Damette*: and in the other provinces of France, *Lavandiere*.

* From δρυς an oak, and καλαπίω to beat.

† Perhaps from κωνωψ a gnat, and λεγω to gather.

‡ From ξυλον wood, and κοπίω to cut.

§ Turner himself was in the end convinced, that the κνιπολογος was a kind of wood-pecker; and Aldrovandus thinks that Aristotle meant by that name a creeper.

The white wagtail is scarcely larger than the ordinary titmouse, though its long tail seems to add to its size, so that its whole length is seven inches: the tail itself is three inches and an half, which the bird expands and displays while it flies. With this large oar it directs and balances its motions: it whirls, it darts, and sports in the air; and when it alights, it briskly wags it upwards and downwards, at intervals of five or six shakes.

These birds run nimbly with little hasty steps on the sandy brinks; they even venture with their long legs to the depth of a few lines in the thin sheet of water that spreads over the shelving margin: but they oftener flutter about mill-dams, and sit on stones. They visit the washer-women, and hover about them the whole day, approaching familiarly, and picking up the crumbs that are thrown to them; and, by the jerking of their tail, seem to imitate the action of cleansing linen; from which habit they have been called in French *lavandiere* (*washer*)*.

The plumage of the white wagtail consists of mottles and large spots of black and white: the belly is white: the tail consists of twelve quills, of which the ten middle ones are black,

* Belon.—In England they are likewise called sometimes *dish-washers*. T.

and the two side ones white to near their origin: the wing reaches only the third of their length; the quills of the wings are blackish and white gray. Belon observes that, with regard to its wings, the wagtail has some relation to the aquatic birds*. The upper side of the head is covered with a black cap, which descends to the nape of the neck; a white half-mask conceals the face, surrounds the eye, and, falling on the sides of the neck, bounds the black of the throat, which is marked with a broad horse-shoe rounded on the breast. Many subjects have only a zone or semi-circle at the top of the breast, and their throat is white; and the back, which is of a slate gray in others, is of a brown gray in these, which seem to form a variety †, though they are mixed and confounded

* "It has a particular mark by which it resembles the shore birds: this is, that the last feathers of the wings, joining the body, are as long as the first of the anterior ones; which obtains likewise in all other birds that live on flies and earth worms, the plovers and the lapwings."

Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 349.

† "The lead colour varies in this kind of birds, some being more cinereous, others blacker." *Willughby*. Albin says the same, vol. i. p. 43. Some observers seem to attribute this difference to that of age, and assert that most of the wagtails are white on their return in spring, and assume black in the course of the season. Belon seems to be of this opinion: "The young wagtails in their sixth month," says

founded with the species ; for the difference between the male and female is, that in the latter the crown of the head is brown ; but in the former it is black *.

The white wagtail returns into our provinces about the end of March. It breeds on the ground under some roots, or below a grass tuft in lands not in tillage : but ofteneft by the edge of waters, beneath a hollow bank, or under the flakes of wood that are driven along the fides of rivers. Their nest confifts of dry herbs and fmall roots, fometimes intermixed with mofs ; the whole loofely compofed, and lined with feathers or hair. They commonly have four or five white eggs, fprinkled with brown fpofts ; and only make a fingle hatch, unlefs the firft fails. The parents defend their young courageoufly : they flutter and dive before their enemy to draw him afide ; and if he carries off the nest, they follow him, flying above his head, and constantly whirling round, calling on their young with doleful cries. They are alfo attentive to the cleanliness of their family, and throw out the excrements, or even

he, “ are of another colour than thofe an year old, and which have caft their firft plumage.”

* “ In this fpecies the female differs from the male in having the fpot on its head, not black, but gray.” *Olin.*
 “ The female has an afh-coloured top.” *Schwenckfeld.*

remove

remove them to a certain distance. They also disperse the bits of paper and straws which have been laid to mark their nest *. After the young are able to fly, the parents continue to feed and train them for three weeks or a month: they gorge greedily the insects and ants' eggs that are brought to them †. These birds are always remarked to eat uncommonly quickly, without seeming to allow time for swallowing. They collect the worms on the ground; they pursue and catch the flies in the air, and these are often the objects of their whirling. Their flight is waving, and consists of jerks and springs. They assist their motion by vibrating

* "I observed wagtails that built in a hole of a wall washed by the river: they were at pains to clean their nest, and carry the excrements more than thirty paces off. A piece of white paper happened to rest on the stake that propped the wall by the water edge: this seemed offensive to the wagtails; and I saw them, one after another, make fruitless efforts to remove it. It was too heavy, and I therefore took it away; but left in its place little strips of paper equally white. They would not suffer these to remain; but carried them to the same distance as the dung of their young, being deceived by the similarity of colour. I repeated this experiment several times."—*Note communicated by M. Hebert.*

† "I put eggs of large ants in a place where the wagtails resorted: they took fifteen or sixteen each time, till their throat was filled, and then carried them to their young."—*Note of the same observer.*

their tail horizontally; a motion different from that on the ground, which is performed perpendicularly. The wagtails utter frequently, especially while on the wing, a small, shrill, redoubled cry, and in a clear tone, *guît-guît guîguîguît*: it is the note of rallying, for those on the ground answer it. But the cry is louder, and oftener repeated, when they have just escaped the talons of the hawk*. They are not so much afraid of men or other animals; for when they are fired at, they do not fly far, but return to alight at a short distance from the fowler. Some are caught along with the larks, by means of the net and mirror †; and it appears from Olina's account, that in Italy they are particularly fowled for about the middle of October.

Autumn is the time when they are most numerous in the country ‡. That season, which

* Olina.

† This sport lasts from four in the afternoon till the dusk of the evening: the persons place themselves by the margin of water, and attract the wagtails with a decoy bird of the same species; or, if that cannot be had, with some other small bird.

‡ "In Brie, in Burgundy, in Bugey, and in most of our provinces, prodigious numbers are seen at certain times near inhabited places; in the fields, following the flocks: whence it appears that they are birds of passage."—*Note of M. Hebert.*

collects them together, seems to inspire them with cheerfulness: they multiply their sports; they hover in the air, fall in the fields, pursue and call upon each other. They come forward in numbers on the roofs of mills, and in hamlets near water, and appear to hold discourse together by their little broken and repeated cries; we might fancy that they interrogate each other, and, for a certain time, reply in their turns, till the general acclamation of the assembly marks their resolution or consent to remove to some other spot. Now it is that they have the little soft warble with a low voice, which scarcely exceeds a murmur*; and from this circumstance, probably, Belon has applied to them the Italian name *susurada* (from *susurrus*, a whisper). This gentle breathing is prompted by autumn, and by the pleasures of society, to which these birds seem much attached.

About the end of autumn, the wagtails form into larger bodies. In the evening they descend among the willows and osiers, by sides of streams and rivers, where they call those which pass, and together make a noisy wrangling till dusk. In the clear mornings of October they fly sometimes very high, and vociferate incessantly

* Belon.

fantly

fantly to each other. Then is the time when they migrate into other climates*. M. de Maillet says that, in this season, prodigious numbers of them drop in Egypt, and that the people dry them in the sand to preserve them for eating†. M. Adanson mentions that they are seen in winter at Senegal, with the swallows and quails, but only during that season.

The white wagtail is common through the whole of Europe, as far as Sweden, and is found too, as we have just noticed, in Africa and in Asia. The one which M. Sonnerat brought to us from the Philippines is the same with that of Europe. That brought from the Cape of Good Hope by Commerſon differed not from the variety delineated *Pl. Enl. fig. 2. No. 652*, except that the white of its throat did not rise on its head, nor so high on the sides of the neck, and that the coverts of its wings are less varied, and do not form the two transverse white lines.

* "In the north of England it appears not in winter, and rarely even in the south." *Willughby*. "The white wagtails depart in autumn." *Gesner*.

† "From Cairo to the sea, all along the Nile, but chiefly near dwellings, are seen a great number of wagtails (*bergeronettes ou lavandieres*) of the blueish gray species, with a black half collar, shaped like a horse-shoe. I could not be informed whether these birds remained the whole year in Egypt."—*Note sent from Cairo by M. Soniini*.

But

But is not Olini mistaken in asserting that the white wagtail is not seen in Italy, unless in autumn and winter? and is it likely that this bird spends the winter in that country, when it pushes its migrations so far into much hotter climates*? [A]

[A] Specific character of the White Wagtail, *Motacilla Alba*: "Its breast is black; its two lateral tail quills divided obliquely with white."

* *Uccelleria*, p. 51.

THE
BERGERONETTES,
OR BERGERETTES.

THE GRAY BERGERONETTE.

FIRST SPECIES.

Motacilla Cinerea, Gmel. & Briff.
The Cinereous Wagtail, Lath.

WE have seen that the *lavandiere*, or white wagtail, consists of a single species, that admits only of a slight variety; but the family of the *bergeronettes* includes three very distinct species, and all of them live in our fields without associating or breeding together. Not to interfere with the received names, we shall denominate them *the gray bergeronette*, *the spring bergeronette*, and *the yellow bergeronette*; and we shall, in a separate article, notice the foreign birds related to these.

The sort of attachment which these birds shew to flocks; their habits of following them
in

in the meadows, and of fluttering amidst cattle, while these are feeding*, and sometimes even alighting on the backs of cows and sheep; their familiarity with the herdsman, whom they attend with confidence and security, and give notice of the approach of the wolf, or of the bird of rapine: all these circumstances have procured them an appellation suited to this pastoral life†. The companion of innocent and peaceful men, the *bergeronette* displays that attachment to our species, which would unite to us most animals, were they not repulsed by our barbarity, and the apprehension of becoming our victims. In the *little shepherdess* love predominates above fear; no bird at liberty in the fields appears so tame‡: it allows one to gain nearer and nearer it, and seems not to avoid the fowler§.

It feeds on flies during the summer months; but after the frosts have destroyed the winged insects, and confined the cattle to their stalls, they retire to the brooks, and there pass almost

* "When these birds follow the herds, they are the spies, or rather the sentinels, of the keeper; for they give notice when they descry a wolf, or a ravenous bird."—*Note communicated by M. Guys.*

† The word *bergeronette*, or *bergerette*, signifies a little shepherdess.

‡ Belon.

§ Salerne.

the whole of the severe season. At least, the most of them continue with us during the winter: the yellow *bergeronette* is more uniformly stationary: the gray is less common in that season.

All the *bergeronettes* are smaller than the white wagtail, and their tail is proportionally longer. Belon was well acquainted only with the yellow one, and appears to indicate the gray *bergeronette* by the appellation of *another kind of lavandiere*.

The upper side of the gray *bergeronette* is gray, or cinereous; the under side of its body white, with a brown bar, or half collar, on the neck: the tail is blackish, with white on the outer quills: the great quills of the wings are brown; the others blackish, and fringed with white, like the coverts.

They build about the end of April, commonly on a willow near the ground, and sheltered from rains. They breed twice a year. The second hatch is late; for their nests are found even in September; which could never happen to a family of birds that migrate, and are obliged to educate their young before the winter. However, those of the first hatch, and the pairs which have more diligently discharged their office, spread through the fields in the months of July and August; whereas the white
wagtails

wagtails seldom flock, except when they migrate about the end of September and in October*.

The *bergeronette*, which is constitutionally the friend of man, will not become his slave, and it dies in the cage. It loves society, and cannot bear close confinement; but, if left loose in a room during winter, it will survive, and will catch flies, and pick up the crumbs of bread†. Sometimes it alights on board ships, becomes familiar with the sailors, continues with them in the voyage, and never leaves them till their arrival at the port‡. But such facts may perhaps be ascribed to the white wagtail, which roams more than the *bergeronette*, and which, in passing the seas, is apt to lose its way. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Gray Bergeronette, *Metastilla Cinerea*: "It is cinereous gray, below white; a tawny stripe on the breast (*in the male*); the tail black: the greatest part of the two outermost tail quills is white." It is unknown in Britain.

* Belon.

† Gefner and Schwenckfeld.

‡ "On the 8th of June we were off the coasts of Sicily, twelve or fifteen leagues from land. We caught on the vessel a *bergeronette*: we set it at liberty, but it still continued with us. Food and drink were set for it on one of the windows, to which it regularly came for its meal. It faithfully accompanied us till we were close on the isle of Candia: it quitted us when we had entered the port of Sonda."—Note communicated by M. de Manoncourt.

THE

THE

SPRING BERGERONETTE.

SECOND SPECIES.

Motacilla Flava, Linn. Gmel. Mull. Kram. Fris. Ray.

Sylvia Flavia, Klein.

Motacilla Verna, Briss.

The Yellow Wagtail, Penn. Will. Edw. & Lath.*

THIS *bergeronette* is the first that is seen in the meadows and fields, where it nestles among the green corn. Scarcely indeed does it disappear in the winter, unless during the most severe colds: it commonly haunts, like the yellow kind, the sides of brooks, and springs which never freeze. The epithets bestowed on these birds seem improper; for the following species has less yellow than the present. That colour is distinct only on the rump and belly; but, in the spring *bergeronette*, all the upper and fore parts of the body are of a fine yellow; and there is a streak of the same on the

* In German, *Bach-Steltze* (brook-stilts), *Gelbrustige* (yellow-breast), *Irlin*, *Gelber Sticherling*, *Gelbe-Weyer-Bach Steltze* (yellow-weighing-brook-stilts).

wing,

wing, at the fringe of the middle coverts. All the mantle is of a dull olive, which also borders the eight quills of the tail, whose ground colour is blackish: the two outer ones are more than half white: those of the wings are brown, with their outer edge whitish; and the third of those nearest the body reaches, when the wing is closed, as far as the longest of the great quills; a character which we have already noticed in the white wagtail. The head is cinereous; the crown tinged with olive: above the eye there is a line, which is white in the female, and yellow in the male; which is distinguished also by blackish streaks, more or less frequent, forming a crescent under the throat, and also sprinkled above the knees. When the male is in season, he runs and turns round his female, bristling up the feathers on his back in an odd sort of way, but which undoubtedly expresses the fire of his passion. Their hatch is sometimes late, but commonly productive. They breed often under the banks of rivulets, and sometimes in the midst of corn before harvest*. They frequent, in autumn, the herds of cattle, like the other *bergeronettes*. The species is common in England, in France †, and seems to

* Willughby. Edwards.

† Edwards.

be spread through the whole of Europe, as far as Sweden *. We have found, in several subjects, the hind nail to be longer than the great fore toe; an observation which Edwards and Willughby had made before, and which contradicts the axiom of the nomenclators, who assume it as a generic character of these birds, that this nail and this toe are equal †. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Flava*: "Its breast and belly are yellow; its two lateral tail quills parted obliquely by white. Its egg is lead coloured, variegated with yellowish spots."

* Linnaeus.

† Brisson.

THE
YELLOW BERGERONETTE.

THIRD SPECIES.

Motacilla Boarula, *Gmel.*

Motacilla Flava, *Briss.*

The Yellow Wagtail, *Alb.*

The Gray Wagtail, *Edw. Penn. Will. & Lath.**

WHEN the white wagtails depart in autumn, the *bergeronettes* come near our dwellings, says Gefner, and appear even in the midst of the villages. This habit belongs especially to the yellow kind †: it then procures its subsistence beside the margins of perennial springs, and shelters itself beneath the shelving banks of rivulets. It finds its situation so comfortable, that it even warbles in that torpid season, unless the cold be excessive. This is a soft whispered song, like the autumnal notes of the white wagtail, and very different from the shrill cry which it utters in rising into the air.

* In Italian, *Coda-tremola Gialla*; in German, *Kleine Bach Steltze* (little brook-stilts): in Polish, *Pliska-Zolta*.

† Gefner, Aldrovandus, Olina.

In the spring, it removes to breed in the meadows, or sometimes in the copses beneath a root, and near running water: the nest is placed on the ground, and built with dry herbs and moss, well lined with feathers, hair, or wool, and closer interwoven than that of the white wagtail. It contains six, seven, or eight eggs, of a dirty white, spotted with yellowish. After the young are raised, and the meadows are mowed, the parents lead them among the herds of cattle.

Flies and gnats are then their food; for, when they haunt the sides of streams in winter, they subsist on worms, and also swallow little seeds. We found these, with fragments of caterpillars, and a small stone, in the gizzard of a yellow *bergeronette*, caught in the end of December. The *œsophagus* was dilated before its insertion: the gizzard was muscular, and lined with a dry wrinkled membrane, which had no adhesion: the intestinal tube was ten inches long, and without any *cæcum*, or gall bladder: the tongue was fringed at the end, as in all the *bergeronettes*: the hind nail was the longest.

Of all the long tailed birds, the yellow *bergeronette* is most remarkable for that character*: its tail is near four inches, and its body is

* Edwards.

only three and an half: its alar extent is eight inches ten lines: its head is gray; its mantle, as far as the rump, deep olive, on a gray ground; its rump yellow; the under side of its tail of a brighter yellow; its belly and breast of a pale yellow in young subjects, such as those which Brisson seems to have described; but in adults they are of a rich brilliant yellow*: the throat is white: a small longitudinal whitish bar rises at the bill, and passes over the eye: the plumage of the wings is of a brown gray, slightly fringed in some places with a white gray: there is some white at the origin of the middle quills, which forms a transverse bar on the wing, when this is spread; also, the exterior edge of the three nearest the body is pale yellow, and of these three the first is almost as long as the largest quill: the outermost of those of the tail is entirely white, except a black hollow on the inside: the next is white only within, and the third the same: the six others are blackish. Those which have on the throat a black spot, bearing a white bar under the

* Edwards.—“There is a distinction in the bergerette between the male and the female; the male being very yellow under the belly, no bird more so.” *Belon*.

cheek, are the males*. According to Belon, their yellow tint is also much more vivid: the line of the eyebrows is equally yellow: and it is remarked that the colour of all these birds is more intense in winter after moulting.

Edwards describes this bird under the name of *the gray water wagtail* †; and Gefner applies the epithets of *shake-tail*, *beat-ley*, which are equivalent to *lavandiere* (*washer-woman*). In fact, these *bergeronettes* frequent, no less often than the white wagtail, the brinks of water and pebbly brooks ‡; and, since they lodge in such situations during the winter, their haunts are even more constant. However, the greater part of them migrate; for they are more numerous among the cattle in autumn, than beside the springs and rivulets in winter §. Lin-

næus

* Willughby describes only the female, and calls it the *gray wagtail*: and Albin, who gives two figures of this bird, only delineates the female twice; for neither of them has black on its throat.

† *Gleanings*. An inaccurate denomination which originated with Willughby, who owns that he described only the female.

‡ Willughby.

§ "In the month of August such numbers are caught, that hundreds are brought to town, although at other seasons they are rare, and cannot be got." *Belon*. Adanson found

næus and Frisch take no notice of this species ; whether because they confound it with the spring bergeronette, or because only one of these occurs in the north of Europe [A].

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Boarula* : " Above cinereous ; below yellow ; the whole of its first tail quill, and the inside of the second, white." It is frequent in England ; breeds in the northern part of the island, and shifts in winter to the south.

The *Java bergeronette* of Brisson resembles much this third species. The differences are slight, or even vanish in comparing the descriptions ; and we shall not hesitate to class them together *.

found the yellow bergeronette in Senegal. " In this isle (Gorée) are many small water-birds, woodcocks of several kinds, larks, thrushes, sea partridges, and common wag-tails, which are the ortolans of the country ; being little pellets of fat, excellently flavoured." *Voyage to Senegal*, p. 169.

* " Above ash brown, inclining to olive ; below yellow ; the lower part of the neck and the breast dirty gray, with a mixture of yellow on the breast ; the outermost tail quill white ; the two next white on the inside, and at the tips." *Motacilla Javensis*. Brisson.

FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE BERGERONETTES.

I.

THE BERGERONETTE FROM THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Motacilla Capensis, Linn. Gmel. & Briss.
The Cape Wagtail, Lath. Ind.

THE foreign bergeronettes resemble so closely those of Europe, that we might readily suppose them to be derived from the same stock, and only modified by the influence of climate. The one from the Cape of Good Hope was brought by Sonnerat, and is the same which Brisson describes. A great brown mantle, which terminates in black on the tail, and its two edges, joined below the tail by a brown scarf, covers all the upper side of the body, which is as large as that of the white wagtail. All the under

under side of the body is dirty white; a small line of the same colour intersects the brown hood on the head, and passes from the bill to the eye. Of the quills of the tail the eight middle ones are entirely black: the exterior on each side are broad-scalloped with white: the wing appears brown when closed; but, on spreading it, the half of its length is white. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Capensis*: "It is brown; below whitish; a brown stripe on its breast; its eyebrows white; its lateral tail quills obliquely white."

II.

THE LITTLE BERGERONETTE FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Motacilla Afra, *Gmel.*

The African Wagtail, *Lath.*

THERE are two characters which oblige us to separate this bird from the preceding.

1. The size; this one being only five inches, of which the tail occupies two and an half.
2. The colour of the belly, which is entirely yellow, except the inferior coverts, which are white:

white: a small black bar passes over the eye, and stretches beyond it: all the mantle is of a yellowish brown: the bill is broad at its base, and grows thinner at the middle, and more inflated at the tip: it is black, as are also the wings and the legs: the toes are very long; and Sonnerat, who brought it, observes that the hind nail is larger than the rest: he observes too, that this species resembles much the following, which he has also communicated, and which is perhaps the same, varied only by the difference of climate between the Cape and the Moluccas.

III.

THE BERGERONETTE OF THE ISLAND
OF TIMOR.

Motacilla Flava, Var. Lath. Ind.
The Timor Wagtail, *Lath. Syn.*

AS in the preceding, its body is yellow: there is a streak of the same colour on the eye: the upper side of its head and body is cinereous gray: the great coverts are tipped with white, and form a bar of the same colour on the wing,

wing, which is black, as well as the tail and the bill: the legs are pale red: the hind nail is twice as long as the rest: the bill, as in the preceding, is at first broad, then thin, and afterwards swelled: the tail is twenty-seven lines, and exceeds the wings eighteen lines; and the bird shakes it continually, like the European wagtails.

IV.

THE BERGERONETTE FROM MADRAS.

Motacilla Maderaspatensis, Gmel.

Motacilla Maderaspatana, Briss.

The Pied Wagtail, Lath.

RAY first noticed this species, and from him Brissot has drawn his description*; but neither of them mentions the size. Its colours consist of black and white: the head, the throat, the neck, and all the back, including the wings, are black: all the quills of the tail are white, except the two middle ones; these are black,

* "Black (*male*), cinereous (*female*); belly white; a bright white longitudinal bar on the wings; the two middle tail quills black; the lateral ones black." Brissot.

and

and rather shorter than the rest, which makes the tail forked: the belly is white: the bill, the legs, and nails are black. Every part that is black in the male, is gray in the female.

B  L



FIG. 1. THE FIG-EATER FIG. 2. THE PITPAT.

THE
FIG-EATERS.

LES FIGUIERS, *Buff.*

THESE birds are of a genus approaching to that of the fig-peckers, and resemble these in their principal characters. Their bill is straight, slender, and very acute, with two small scallops near the extremity of the upper mandible; a property which they have in common with the tanagres, in which however the bill is much thicker and shorter. The nostrils of the fig-eaters are uncovered, which distinguishes them from the titmice: the angle of their hind nail is arched, which separates them from the larks; and therefore they must be ranged by themselves.

We are acquainted with five species of fig-eaters in the hot countries of the old continent, and twenty-nine in those of America: these differ from the former in the shape of the tail, which is regularly tapered in the species that inhabit the old continent, but notched at the end in the natives of America, and almost forked, the two middle quills being shorter than the others;

others; and that character is sufficient to decide to what continent they belong. We shall begin with those of the old.

T H E
GREEN AND YELLOW FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER VERT & JAUNE, *Buff.*

F I R S T S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Tiphia, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Tiphia, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Bengalenfis, *Briff.*

The Green Indian Fly-catcher, *Edw.*

The Green Indian Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird is four inches and eight lines in length; its bill seven lines, its tail twenty lines, and its legs seven lines and an half: the head and all the upper side of the body are of an olive green; the under side of the body yellowish: the superior coverts of the wings are of a deep brown, with two transverse white bars: the quills of the wings and those of the tail are of the same green with the back: the bill, the legs, and the nails are blackish.

Edwards describes this bird as brought from Bengal, and terms it a *fly-catcher*, though its bill indicates a quite different genus. Linnæus is also mistaken in reckoning it a wagtail (*motacilla*); for the tails of the fig-eaters are much shorter. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Tiphia*: "It is green; below yellowish; the wings black; two white bars."

THE
C H E R I C.

SECOND SPECIES.

Motacilla Madagascariensis, Gmel.

Sylvia Madagascariensis, Lath. Ind.

Ficedula Madagascariensis Minor, Briff.

The White-eyed Warbler, Lath. Syn.

IN the island of Madagascar this bird is known by the name *tcheric*: it was transported into the isle of France, where it is called *white-eye*, on account of a small white membrane encircling its eyes. It is smaller than the preceding, being only three inches and eight lines in length,

length, and its other dimensions proportional: its head, the upper side of its neck, its back, and the superior coverts of its wings, are of an olive green: its throat and the inferior coverts of its tail are yellow: the upper side of its body is whitish: the quills of the wings are of a light brown, and bordered with olive green on their outer margin; the two quills in the middle of the tail are of the same olive green with the upper side of the body: the other quills of the tail are brown, and edged with olive green: the bill is dun gray: the legs and nails are cinereous. The Viscount Querhoënt, who observed this bird in the isle of France, says that it is not timid, yet seldom visits the settlements; that it flies in flocks, and feeds on insects. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Madagascariensis*:
 "It is olive brown: its head rufous; its throat white; its breast tawny; its belly rufous brown."

THE
LITTLE SIMON.

THIRD SPECIES.

Sylvia Borbonica, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Borbonica, *Briss.*

The Bourbon Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird is called the *Little Simon* in the island of Bourbon, though it is not a native of that place, and must have been transported thither; for we are informed by people of veracity, and particularly by Commerfon, that there existed no kind of quadrupeds or birds in the islands of Bourbon and France, when the Portuguese first discovered them. These islands appear to be the points of a continent which has been swallowed up, and almost their whole surface is covered with volcanic productions; so that at present they are stocked only with animals that have been carried to them.

This bird is exactly of the same size with the preceding: the upper side of its body is of a light slate colour; the under side white gray; the throat white; the great quills of the tail

VOL. V.

T

deep

deep brown, edged on one side with a slate colour: the bill is brown, acute, and slender; the legs gray, and the eyes black: the females, and even the young ones, have nearly the same plumage as the males. They are very numerous in every part of the island of Bourbon, where the Viscount Querhoënt observed them. They usually breed in September, and lay three or four eggs, probably several times in the course of the year. They build on single trees, and even in orchards: the nest is formed of dry herbs, and lined with hair: the eggs are blue. These birds will allow a person to get very near them; they fly always in flocks, and feed on insects and small soft fruits. When they see a partridge running along the ground, a hare, or a cat, &c. they flutter round it, making a peculiar cry; and hence they direct the fowler to his prey. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Sylvia Borbonica*, Lath.: "It is brown gray; below yellowish gray; the quills of the wings and of the tail edged with gray."

T H E
B L U E F I G - E A T E R .

L E F I G U I E R B L E U , *Buff.*

F O U R T H S P E C I E S .

Motacilla Mauritianana, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Mauritianana, *Lath. Ind.*

The Maurice Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS species has not been noticed by any naturalist, and is probably a native of Madagascar. The male seems to differ in nothing from the female, except that its tail is a slight degree longer, and the upper side of its body has a tinge of blue mixed with the whitish. The head and all the upper side of the body are of a blueish cinereous: the quills of the wings and of the tail are blackish, edged with white: the bill and legs are blueish. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Mauritianana*:
"It is blue gray; below white; the quills of the wings and tail black, edged with white."

THE
SENEGAL FIG-EATER
FIFTH SPECIES.

WE conceive that the three birds delineated No. 582. *Pl. Enl.* are the same species; of which the spotted fig-eater is the male, and the two others only varieties arising from age or sex. They are all very small, but figure 1. is the least*.

The spotted fig-eater †, No. 2, is scarcely four inches long, of which the tail occupies two; it is tapered, and the two middle quills are the longest: all these tail quills are brown, fringed with rusty white; so are also the great quills of the wings. The plumage of the wings and of the back and head, is black, edged with light rufous: the rump is deeper rufous, and the fore part of the body is white.

The two others differ from this, but resemble

* *Sylvia Rufigastrea*, *Lath.*

† *Motacilla Undata*, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Undata, *Lath. Ind.*

The Undated Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

le each other. The fig-eater (figure 3)* has not its tail tapered : it is light brown, and proportionally shorter than the body : the upper side of the head and body is brown : the wing is blackish brown, fringed on the quills, and undated on the coverts with a rusty brown : the fore part of the body is of a light yellow, and there is a little white under the eyes.

The fig-eater (figure 1) is smaller than the other two : all its plumage is nearly the same as that of figure 3, except the fore part of the body, which is not light yellow, but aurora red.

We have already seen that, in some species of the genus of fig-eaters, there are some individuals whose colours vary considerably.

We presume likewise, that the three other birds of No. 584. *Pl. Enl.* are of the same identical species ; of which the first appears to be the male †, and the two others varieties of age or sex † ; the third, particularly, seems to be a

* *Motacilla Flavescens*, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Flavescens, *Lath. Ind.*

The Citron-bellied Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

† *Motacilla Fuscata*, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Fuscata, *Lath. Ind.*

The Dusky Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

‡ *Motacilla Subflava*, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Subflava, *Lath. Ind.*

The Flaxen Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

female. In all the three, the head and upper side of the body are brown; the under side gray, with a flaxen tint of various extent and intensity; the bill is brown, and the legs yellow.

WE shall now proceed to enumerate the species of fig-eaters that are found in America. They are in general larger than those of the ancient continent. We have already noticed their distinguishing character, and we can only subjoin some details with regard to their habits. They are of a wandering disposition; they pass the summer in Carolina, or even so far north as Canada, and return to the warmer regions to breed and raise their young. They inhabit the cleared grounds and the cultivated spots: they perch on small shrubs, and feed on insects and ripe tender fruits, such as those of the bananas, of the mangroves, and of the fig-trees, which are not natives of that climate, but were transported thither; they enter the gardens to peck them, and hence their name: however, they on the whole eat more insects than fruits; for, if these are hard, they cannot break them.

THE
SPOTTED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER TACHETE, *Buff.*

FIRST SPECIES.

Ficedula Canadensis, Briff.

THIS bird is seen in Canada during summer, but makes only a short stay, and does not breed there: its ordinary residence is in Guiana, and other parts of South America. Its warble is pleasant, and much like that of the linnet.

The head and all the upper side of its body are of a fine yellow, with reddish spots on the lower part of the neck, and on the breast and sides: the upper surface of its body, and the superior coverts of its wings, are of an olive green: the quills of its wings are brown, and edged exteriorly with the same green: the quills of the tail are brown, and bordered with yellow: the bill, the legs, and the nails are blackish.

A variety of this species, or perhaps the female, is represented in the same plate; for it differs from the other only because the upper

side of the head is, like the body, of an olive green : but these differences are insufficient to form a separate species.

T H E
RED-HEADED FIG-EATER.

• LE FIGUIER A TETE ROUGE, *Buff.*

S E C O N D S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Petechia, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Petechia, Lath. Ind.

Ficedula Erythrocephalus, Briss.

The Yellow Red-poll, *Edw.*

The Red-headed Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THE crown of the head is of a beautiful red : all the upper side of the body is olive green ; the under side of a fine yellow, with red spots on the breast and belly : the wings and tail are brown : the bill is black, and the legs are reddish. The female has no difference from the male, except that its colours are not so bright. It is a solitary, transient bird : it arrives in Pennsylvania in the month of March, but does not breed there : it frequents
the

THE WHITE-THROATED FIG-EATER. 281

the brakes, seldom perches on large trees, and it feeds on the insects which it finds on the shrubs. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Petechia* : " It is olive ; below yellow, with yellow red drops ; has a red cap."

T H E

WHITE-THROATED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A GORGE BLANCHE, *Buff.*

T H I R D S P E C I E S .

Motacilla Albicollis, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Albicollis, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Dominicensis, *Briff.*

The Saint Domingo Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird is found in St. Domingo. In the male, all the upper surface of the body, and the small superior coverts of the wings, are of an olive green : the sides of the head and throat are whitish : the lower part of the neck and breast is yellowish, with small red spots : the rest of the upper side of the body is yellow : the great superior coverts, and the quills of the wings,

282 THE YELLOW-THROATED FIG-EATER.

wings, and those of the tail, are brown, and edged with olive yellow: the bill, the legs, and nails are brown gray.

The female differs not from the male, except that the green on the upper part of the neck is mixed with cinereous.

THE
YELLOW-THROATED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A GORGE JAUNE, *Buff.*

FOURTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Ludoviciana, Gmel.

Sylvia Ludoviciana, Lath. Ind.

Ficedula Ludoviciana, Briss.

The Louisiane Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird is a native of Louisiana and of Saint Domingo. In the male, the head and all the upper side of the body are of a fine olive green, which is slightly tinged with yellowish on the back: the sides of the head are of a dilute cinereous: the throat, the lower part of the neck, and the breast, are of a fine yellow,

yellow, with small reddish spots on the breast: the rest of the under side of the body is of a yellowish white: the superior coverts of the wings are blueish, and terminated with white, which forms two cross white bars on each: the quills of the wings are of a blackish brown, and edged exteriorly with blueish cinereous, and white within; the three first quills on each side have also a white spot on the extremity of their inside: the upper mandible is brown; the lower gray; the legs and nails ash-coloured.

The plumage of the female is the same with that of the male, only there are no red spots on the breast.

We cannot help observing that Brisson has confounded this bird with the *pine-creeper* of Edwards, which is indeed a fig-eater, but different from the present. We shall notice it afterwards.

T H E

GREEN AND WHITE FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER VERT & BLANC, *Buff.*

F I F T H S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Chloroleuca, *Gmel.*Sylvia Chloroleuca, *Lath. Ind.*Ficedula Dominicensis Minor, *Briss.*The Green and White Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS is also a native of Saint Domingo. The head and the under side of the neck are of a yellowish ash colour in the male; the small superior coverts of the wings, and all the upper side of the body, olive green; the throat and all the under side of the body yellowish white; the great superior coverts of the wings and the quills brown, and edged with yellowish green; the quills of the tail of an exceeding deep olive green: the lateral ones have, on their inside, a yellow spot, that is broader the more they are exterior: the bill, the legs, and nails are brown gray.

In the female the colours are fainter, which is the only difference.

THE

ORANGE-THROATED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A GORGE ORANGEE, *Buff.*

SIXTH SPECIES.

*Motacilla Auricollis, Gmel.**Sylvia Auricollis, Lath. Ind.**Ficedula Canadensis Major, Briss.*The Orange-throated Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

BRISSEON terms this the *Canada Fig-eater*; but, probably, like the rest of the genus, it is only a bird of passage in that climate. The head, the upper side of the neck, the back, and the small superior coverts of the wings, are of an olive green; the rump, and the great superior coverts of the wings, cinereous; the throat, the lower part of the neck, and the breast, orange; the belly, pale yellow; the lower belly, and the legs, whitish; the quills of the wings brown, and edged exteriorly with cinereous: the two middle quills of the tail are cinereous: all the rest are white within, and blackish on the outside, and at the tip.

There is no difference in the plumage between the male and the female, except that the colours in the latter are less vivid.

THE

THE
CINEREOUS-HEADED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A TETE CENDREE, *Buff.*

SEVENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Maculosa, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Maculosa, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Pennsylvanica *Nævia*, *Briff.*

The Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird was sent from Pennsylvania to England, and Edwards calls it the *Yellow-rumped Flycatcher*: he has very improperly given the appellation of *Flycatcher* to all the fig-eaters that he has described and delineated. In the present, the crown and sides of the head are cinereous: the upper surface of the neck and the back are of an olive green, spotted with black: the throat, the breast, and the rump, are of a fine yellow, with black spots on the breast: the superior coverts of the wings are of a deep ash colour, and terminated with white, which forms two transverse white bars on each wing: the quills of the wing are deep cinereous, edged with white: the two middle quills of the tail are black; the others are blackish, with

with a great white spot on the inside: the bill, the legs, and the nails are brown.

THE
BROWN FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER BRUN, *Buff.*

EIGHTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Fuscensis, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Fuscensis, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Jamaicensis, *Briff.*

Muscicapa Pallidè-Fusca, *Ray.*

Luscinia Muscicapa Pallidè-Fusca, *Klein.*

SIR Hans Sloane is the first who mentions this bird, which he found in the cultivated parts of Jamaica, and which he calls *Worm-eater*. The head, the throat, all the upper side of the body, the wings and the tail, are light brown: the under side of the body is variegated with the same colours as the plumage of the larks. This is all that author says on the subject. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Fuscensis*: "It is dusky; below variegated with blackish and rufous gray; the bill, the throat, and a bar at the eyes, brown."

THE

BLACK-CHEEKED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER AUX JOUES NOIRES, *Buff.*

NINTH SPECIES.

Turdus-Trichas, *Linn. & Gmel.**Sylvia-Trichas*, *Lath. Ind.**Ficedula Marylandica*, *Briss.*The Maryland Yellow-throat, *Edw.*The Yellow-breasted Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

WE are indebted to Edwards for the account of this bird. It inhabits Pennsylvania, and frequents the small woods that are watered by rills, at the sides of which it is commonly found. It only spends the summer in that climate, and disappears before the winter; which shews that this fig-eater, like the others, is only a bird of passage in those parts of North America.

The sides of its head are of a fine black, and the crown is reddish brown: the upper side of the neck, the back, the rump, and the wings are of a deep olive green; the throat and breast of a fine yellow; the rest of the under side of the body pale yellow: the bill and legs are brown.

THE
YELLOW SPOTTED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER TACHETÉ DE JAUNE, *Buff.*

TENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Tigrina, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Tigrina, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Canadensis Fusca, *Briss.*

The Spotted Yellow Flycatcher, *Edw. Penn. & Lath.*

WE borrow the description of this bird also from Edwards. Both the male and female were caught at sea eight or ten leagues off Saint Domingo, in the month of November, and brought to England by the same ship. The author observes properly that these are migratory birds, and were then on their passage from North America to the island of Saint Domingo.

The head and all the upper side of the body are olive : above the eyes there is a yellow bar ; the throat, the lower part of the neck, the breast, and the inferior coverts of the wings, of a fine yellow, with little black spots : the belly and the legs are of a pale yellow, without spots ; the wings and tail of a dull olive green : there is a long

VOL. V.

U

white

white spot on the superior coverts of the wings and the lateral quills of the tail are white on half of their length.

The female has no difference from the male except that the breast is whitish, with brown spots; and that the olive green of the upper surface of the body is not so glossy. Brisson has taken the female for another species, which he has termed *the brown fig-eater* of Saint Domingo.

T H E

BROWN AND YELLOW FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER BRUN & JAUNE, *Buff.*

E L E V E N T H S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Trochilus.

Motacilla Acredula, *Linn.*

Ficedula Carolinensis, *Briss.*

Cēnanthe Fusco-lutea Minor, *Ray.*

The Yellow Titmouse, *Catesby.*

The Yellow Wren, *Edw.*

The Scotch Wren, *Penn. & Lath.*

THIS bird is found in Jamaica. Sloane and Brown have both described it, and Edwards has given a coloured figure under the name

name of *Yellow Wren*, which is improper. Catelby and Klein have fallen into another mistake, reckoning it a titmouse. It breeds in Carolina, but does not continue there during the winter: the head, all the upper surface of the body, the wings, and the tail, are of a greenish brown: there are two small bars on each side of the head: all the under surface of the body is of a fine yellow: the superior coverts of the wings are terminated with green and light olive, which forms two oblique bars in each: the quills of the wings are edged exteriorly with yellow; the bill and legs are black*.

* This bird, which seems to be only a variety of the yellow wren, breeds in North Carolina, and retires in winter to Jamaica. It occurs also in most parts of Europe, from India to Kamtschatka.

THE
PINE FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER DES SAPINS, *Buff.*

TWELFTH SPECIES.

Certhia-Pinus, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Pinus, Lath. Ind.

Parus Americanus, Briff.

The Pine Warbler, Penn. & Lath.

EDWARDS calls this bird the *Pine-creeper*; but it does not belong to that genus, though it creeps on the pines in Carolina and Pennsylvania. The bill of the creepers, it is well known, is bent like a sickle; whereas it is straight in this bird, which resembles the fig-eaters so much in every other respect, that it ought to be classed with them. Catesby is also mistaken in ranging it with the titmice, probably because, like these, it creeps on trees. Briffon has committed an oversight in separating the *Pine-creeper* of Catesby from that of Edwards.

The head, the throat, and all the under side of the body, are of a very beautiful yellow: there is a small black bar on each side of the head:

head: the upper part of the neck, and all the upper surface of the body, are of a yellow green or shining olive, which is still more bright on the rump: the wings and tail are of a blueish iron colour: the superior coverts are terminated with white, which forms on each wing two transverse white bars: the bill is black, and the legs are of a yellowish brown.

The female is entirely brown.

This bird appears in Carolina in winter, where Catesby tells us that it searches on the deciduous trees for insects. It is also seen during summer in the northern provinces. Bartram informed Edwards, in a letter, that it arrives in Pennsylvania in the month of April, and continues all the summer: however, he confesses that he never saw its nest. It lives on the insects that lodge on the leaves, and in the buds of trees. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia-Pinus*: "It is yellow; above olive; its wings blue, with two white bars, It is four and a half inches long; its tail forked."

THE
BLACK-COLLARED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A CRAVATTE NOIRE, *Buff.*

THIRTEENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Virens, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Virens, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Pennsylvanica Guttura Nigro, *Briff.*

The Black-throated Green Flycatcher, *Edw.*

The Green Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THIS fig-eater was sent from Pennsylvania by Bartram to Edwards: it is a bird of passage in that climate, where it arrives in April, and advances northwards, and in September it returns again to the south. It feeds on insects, like all the others of this genus.

The crown of the head, all the upper surface of the body, and the small superior coverts of the wings, are of an olive green: the sides of the head and neck are of a fine yellow; the throat, and under surface of the neck, black, which forms a sort of collar of that colour: the breast is yellowish; the rest of the under side of the body white, with some blackish spots on the flanks; the great superior coverts of the wings are

are of a deep brown, and terminated with white, which forms on each wing two white transverse bars; the quills of the wings, and those of the tail, are of a deep ash colour: the three outer ones on each side of the tail are marked with white spots within: the bill is black, and the legs brown.

THE

YELLOW-HEADED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A TETE JAUNE, *Buff.*

FOURTEENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Icterocephala, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Icterocephala, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Canadensis Icterocephalos, *Briss.*

The Quebec Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

BRISSEON is the first who described this bird. He tells us that it is found in Canada; but it is probable only migratory in that northern climate, like some other species of fig-eaters. The crown of its head is yellow: there is a great black spot on each side of the head,

over the eyes, and another whitish one below them; the back of the head, the upper side of the neck, and all the upper side of the body, covered with black feathers, edged with yellowish green; the throat, and all the under side of the body, whitish; the superior coverts of the wings black, and tipped with yellowish, which forms on each wing two cross yellowish bars: the quills of the wings and of the tail are blackish, and edged exteriorly with olive green and whitish; the inside of the three lateral quills of the tail yellowish white, from their middle to their extremity: the bill, the legs, and nails, are blackish.

It appears that the bird, No. 731, Fig. 2. *Pl. Enl.* denominated the *Mississippi Fig-eater*, is only a variety of the present, occasioned by age or sex; for the only difference is, that it has no spots on the sides of its head, and that its colours are not so deep. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Icterocephala*:
 "It is black; whitish below: has a yellow cap, and a black bar on its eyes, and two yellow ones on its wings."

THE
YELLOW-THROATED CINEREOUS
FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER CENDRÉ A GORGE JAUNE, *Buff.*

FIFTEENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Dominica, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Dominica, *Lath. Ind.*

The Jamaica Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

DR. Sloane gives the account of this bird, which is found in Jamaica and Saint Domingo. The head, the whole of the upper surface of the body, and the small superior coverts of the wings, are of an ash-colour: on each side of the head there is a yellow longitudinal bar; below the eyes a large black spot; on the outer edge of each eye a white spot: the throat, the under side of the neck, the breast, and belly, are yellow, with some small black spots on each side of the breast: the great superior coverts of the wings are brown, edged exteriorly with cinereous, and tipped with white, which forms two transverse white bars on each wing: the quills of the wings and of the

the tail are of an ash brown, and edged exteriorly with gray : the two outer quills on each side of the tail are marked with a white spot near the end of their interior surface : the bill, the legs, and the nails are brown. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Dominica* : "It is cinereous ; below white ; a yellow spot before the eyes ; white behind, and black below."

T H E

COLLARED CINEREOUS FIG-EATER,

LE FIGUIER CENDRÉ A COLLIER, *Buff.*

S I X T E E N T H S P E C I E S .

Parus Americanus, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Ficedula Carolinensis Cinerea, *Briff.*

The Finch-Creeper, *Catesby.*

The Creeping Titmouse, *Penn.*

WE are indebted to Catesby for the account of this bird, which he terms the *Finch-creeper* ; but it belongs to neither of these genera, and is really a fig-eater. It is found in North America, from Carolina to Canada.

The

The head, the upper side of the neck, the rump, and the superior coverts of the wings, are of an ash colour: the back is olive green; the throat and breast yellow, with a half collar of cinereous on the lower part of the neck: the rest of the under side of the body is white, with some small red spots on the flanks: the great superior coverts of the wings are tipped with white, which forms on each wing two transverse white bars: the quills of the wings and of the tail are blackish: the two exterior feathers, on each side of the tail, have a white spot at the termination of their inner surface: the upper mandible of the bill is brown; the lower mandible and the legs, yellowish.

These birds creep on the trunks of large trees, and feed on the insects which they pick out of the cracks in the bark: they continue during the whole winter in Carolina. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Parus Americanus*: "It is blueish; its temples, its breast, and its back yellowish; its flanks purplish."

THE
BELTED FIG-E A T R,

LE FIGUIER A CEINTURE, *Buff.*

SEVENTEENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Canadensis, *Linn.*

Motacilla Cineta, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Cineta, *Lath.*

Ficedula Canadensis Cinerea, *Briff.*

The Belted Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

ON the crown of the head there is a yellow spot, and, on each side, a white bar: the rest of the head, the upper surface of the body, the superior coverts of the wings, are of a deep cinereous, almost black. But the most obvious character is a yellow belt between the breast and belly, which are both white, variegated with some small brown spots: the great superior coverts of the wings are tipped with white, which forms two white transverse bars on each wing: the superior coverts of the tail are yellow: the quills of the wings and of the tail are brown: the two exterior quills, on each side of the tail, have a white spot near the termination of

of the inner surface: the bill is black; the legs and nails brown.

The female differs not from the male, except that the upper surface of the body is brown, and the superior coverts of the tail are not yellow. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Canadensis*:
"Above blue; below white; its throat, and the quills of its wings and tail, black."

THE BLUE FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER BLEU, *Buff.*

EIGHTEENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Canadensis, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Canadensis, Lath.

Ficedula Canadensis Cinerea Major, Briss.

The Black-throated Warbler, Penn. & Lath.

THIS is the *blue fly-catcher* of Edwards. It was caught at sea eight or ten leagues south of Saint Domingo; but, from his statement, he seems to have received another of the same

same birds from Pennsylvania. They arrive in that province about May, and remain through the summer: and thus they are migratory in North America, as are almost all the other fig-eaters, whose native climate is South America.

The head, all the upper part of the body, and the superior coverts of the wings, are of a blue slate colour: the throat, and the sides of the head and neck, are of a fine black; the rest of the under surface of the body whitish; the quills of the wings, and of the tail, blackish, with a white spot on the great quills of the wings: the bill and legs are black: in the *Planches Enluminées* these are yellow: perhaps the small scales of the dried specimen from which it was designed, were worn off.

THE
VARIEGATED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER VARIÉ.

NINETEENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Varia, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Varia, Lath.

Ficedula Dominicensis Varia, Briss.

The Black and White Creeper, Edw.

The White-poll Warbler, Penn. & Lath.

SLOANE found this bird in Jamaica, and Edwards received a specimen from Pennsylvania, where it appears in the month of April. It feeds on insects, and continues during the summer; but, on the approach of winter, it returns to the tropical parts of the American continent. The crown of its head is white; the sides black, with two small white bars: the back and rump are white, variegated with large black spots: the throat is black; the breast and belly white, with some black spots on the breast and sides: the great superior coverts of the wings are black, tipped with white, which forms two transverse white bars on each wing: the quills of the wings are gray, and edged

edged with white on the inside: the quills of the tail are black, and edged with iron gray: the lateral ones have white spots on their inside: the bill and legs are black. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Varia*: "It is spotted with black and white; has two white stripes on the wings; its tail forked."

T H B

RUFOUS-HEADED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A TETE ROUSSE, *Buff.*

T W E N T I E T H S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Ruficapilla, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Ruficapilla, *Lath.*

Ficedula Martinicana, *Briss.*

The Bloody-side Warbler, *Lath.*

THIS bird was sent from Martinico to M. Aubry, rector of Saint Louis. The head is rufous; the upper part of the neck, and all the upper side of the body, olive green; the throat and breast yellow, variegated with longitudinal rufous spots; the rest of the under side

of the body, light yellow without spots: the superior coverts and the quills of the wings and of the tail are brown, edged with olive green: the two exterior quills on each side of the tail are light yellow on the inside; the bill brown, and the legs gray.

We conceive that the bird mentioned by Father Feuillée under the appellation of *chloris erithacorides*, is the same with this. Its bill is black, according to that author, and pointed with a minute portion of blue at the root of the lower mandible: its eye is of a fine glossy black, and the head and the nape of the neck are of a tawny colour, like dry leaves: all the fore side of the bird is yellow, streaked, like the European thrushes, with the colour of the head: all the back is greenish, but the wings are black, and its mantle is also black: the feathers of the wings have a green edging: the thighs and the upper part of the legs are gray; but the under part is entirely white, mixed with a little yellow; and the toes are furnished with small black nails, that are very sharp*.

This bird is continually on the wing, and never rests unless to feed: its song is slender, but mellow.

* *Observations Physiques du P. Feuillée*, p. 113.

THE
RED-BREASTED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A POITRINE JAUNE, *Buff.*

TWENTY-FIRST SPECIES.

Motacilla Pennsylvanica, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Pennsylvanica, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Pennsylvanica Icterocephalos, *Briss.*

The Red-throated Flycatcher, *Edw.*

The Bloody-side Warbler, *Penn.*

The Red-throated Warbler, *Lath.*

EDWARDS has given the cock and hen of this bird, which he received from Pennsylvania, where they only pay a transient visit in the spring, in their way to spend the summer in the more northern provinces. They live on insects and spiders.

The crown of the head is yellow, with white on each side, and a small black bar below the eyes: the upper surface of the neck, and the superior coverts of the wings, are blackish: the feathers on the upper part of the body, and the quills of the wings, are black, and edged with olive green: the top of the breast, and the sides of the body, are of a deep red;

red; the throat and the belly whitish: the great superior coverts of the wings are tipped with white, which forms two white transverse bars on each wing: the bill and legs are black.

The female is distinguished from the male, by having no black on the back of the head, nor red on the breast. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Pennsylvanica*: "It has a yellowish cap, and its flanks are blood-coloured."

THE

CÆRULEAN FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER GRIS DE FER, *Buff.*

TWENTY-SECOND SPECIES.

Motacilla Cærulea, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Cærulea, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Pennsylvanica Cinerea, *Briss.*

The Little Blue-gray Flycatcher, *Edw.*

The Cærulean Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

WE are indebted to Edwards also for the description and history of this bird. He has given figures of the cock and hen, with the

nest. They are found in Pennsylvania, where they arrive in the month of March, and remain through the summer, and again return to the south.

The head, and all the upper part of the body, are iron gray: there is a black bar on each side of the head, above the eyes: all the under surface of the body is white: the wings are brown: the two outer quills on each side of the tail are white: the third, on each side, has a white spot near the extremity; and what remains of it, as well as all the other quills of the tail, is of the same colour with the upper part of the body.

The female has not the black bars on the sides of the head, which is the only difference between it and the male.

These birds begin in April to construct their nests with the short woolly substance that surrounds the buds of trees, and with the down of plants: the outside is composed of a flat grayish moss or lichen, which they gather on the rocks: and there is an intermediate layer of horse hair. The form is nearly that of a short cylinder; close below, and having its aperture above.

It would appear that the bird, No. 704, fig. 1. *Pl. Enl.* and denominated *the black-headed fig-eater of Cayenne*, belongs to this species; for it is precisely like the male described by Edwards, except that the head, the quills of the

wings, and those of the middle of the tail, are of a fine black ; and this difference is only sufficient to constitute two varieties. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Carulea* : " Above it is blue ; below white ; its wings and tail black."

T H E

GOLDEN-WINGED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER AUX AILES DORÉES, *Buff.*

TWENTY-THIRD SPECIES.

Motacilla Chrysoptera, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia Chrysoptera, Lath.

Ficedula Pennsylvanica Cinerea Guttura Nigro, Briss.

The Golden-winged Flycatcher, Edw.

The Gold-winged Warbler, Penn. & Lath.

WE borrow the account of this bird too from Edwards. It arrives in Pennsylvania in the month of April, and halts only a few days ; it penetrates farther north, and returns to pass the winter in the milder climates.

The head is of a fine yellow, and there is a large spot of gold colour on the superior coverts of the wings : the sides of the head are white,

nest. They are found in Pennsylvania, where they arrive in the month of March, and remain through the summer, and again return to the south.

The head, and all the upper part of the body, are iron gray: there is a black bar on each side of the head, above the eyes: all the under surface of the body is white: the wings are brown: the two outer quills on each side of the tail are white: the third, on each side, has a white spot near the extremity; and what remains of it, as well as all the other quills of the tail, is of the same colour with the upper part of the body.

The female has not the black bars on the sides of the head, which is the only difference between it and the male.

These birds begin in April to construct their nests with the short woolly substance that surrounds the buds of trees, and with the down of plants: the outside is composed of a flat grayish moss or lichen, which they gather on the rocks: and there is an intermediate layer of horse hair. The form is nearly that of a short cylinder; close below, and having its aperture above.

It would appear that the bird, No. 704, fig. 1. *Pl. Enl.* and denominated *the black-headed fig-eater of Cayenne*, belongs to this species; for it is precisely like the male described by Edwards, except that the head, the quills of the wings,

wings, and those of the middle of the tail, are of a fine black; and this difference is only sufficient to constitute two varieties. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Cærulea*: "Above it is blue; below white; its wings and tail black."

T H E

GOLDEN-WINGED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER AUX AILES DORÉES, *Buff.*

TWENTY-THIRD SPECIES.

Motacilla Chrysoptera, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Chrysoptera, *Lath.*

Ficedula Pennsylvanica Cinerea Gutturæ Nigro, *Briss.*

The Golden-winged Flycatcher, *Edw.*

The Gold-winged Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

WE borrow the account of this bird too from Edwards. It arrives in Pennsylvania in the month of April, and halts only a few days; it penetrates farther north, and returns to pass the winter in the milder climates.

The head is of a fine yellow, and there is a large spot of gold colour on the superior coverts of the wings: the sides of the head are white,

310 THE GOLDEN-CROWNED FIG-EATER.

with a broad black bar that furrounds the eyes; all the upper surface of the body, the wings, and the tail, are of a deep ash-colour: the throat and the lower part of the neck are black: the rest of the under surface of the body is white; the bill and legs are black. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Chrysoptera*: "It is dark cinereous; below white; its cap, and the spot on its wings, yellow; its throat black."

T H E

GOLDEN-CROWNED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER COURONNÉ D'OR, *Buff.*

TWENTY-FOURTH SPECIES.

The Golden-crowned Flycatcher, *Edw. & Lath.*

WE adopt the epithet *golden-crowned*, given by Edwards. It is a bird of passage in Pennsylvania, where it appears in the spring; and, after halting a few days, it advances farther north; and, on the approach of winter, it returns to the warmer climates.

On the crown of the head there is a round spot of a fine gold colour: the sides of the head, the

the wings, and the tail, are black: the upper part of the neck, the back, and the breast, are of a blue slate colour, spotted with black, and the sides of the body are yellow, with some black spots: all the under surface of the body is whitish: the great superior coverts of the wings are tipped with white, which forms two transverse white bars on each wing: the bill and legs are blackish.

The female differs not from the male, except that the upper surface of the body is brown, and there is no black on the sides of the head, nor on the breast.

THE

ORANGE FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER ORANGÉ.

TWENTY-FIFTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Chrysocephala, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Chrysocephala, *Lath. Ind.*

The Orange-headed Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS species is new: it is found in Guiana, whence it was sent to the king's cabinet. The crown and sides of its head, the throat,

throat, the sides, and under surface of its neck, are of a beautiful orange colour, with two small brown bars on each side of the head. All the upper surface of the body, and the quills of the wings, are of a reddish brown: the superior coverts of the wings are variegated with black and white: the breast is yellowish as well as the belly: the quills of the tail are black, and edged with yellowish: the bill is black, and the feet are yellow.

THE
CRESTED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER HUPPÉ, *Buff.*

TWENTY-SIXTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Cristata, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Cristata, *Lath. Ind.*

The Crested Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird has not been noticed by any naturalist. It is found in Guiana, where it is probably stationary, since it is seen at all seasons: it lives in cleared parts, feeds on insects, and has the same habits and œconomy with

with the other fig-eaters. The under side of its body is gray, mixed with whitish: and the upper is brown, shaded with green; it is distinguished from the other fig-eaters by its crest, which consists of small round feathers, half erect, fringed with white, on a blackish brown ground, and bristled as far as the eye and the root of the bill. It is four inches long, including the tail: the bill and legs are of a yellowish brown. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Cristata*: "Above it is dusky green; below greenish gray; the crest on its head blackish brown, white at the margin."

THE
BLACK FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER NOIR, *Buff.*

TWENTY-SEVENTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Multicolor, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Multicolor, *Lath. Ind.*

The Rufous and Black Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

ANOTHER species, which is also found at Cayenne, but which is rarer, is the black fig-eater; so termed, because the head and

and throat are shrouded with black, which extends over the top and sides of the neck, and on the wings, and backwards as far as the origin of the tail: the same black appears again in a broad bar on the tips of the quills, of which the first half is of a bay colour: there is a short streak of the same colour on the six or seven first quills of the wing, near their insertion, and on the sides of the neck and breast: the fore part of the body is whitish gray: the bill and legs are yellowish brown. This is one of the largest of the fig-eaters, for it is near five inches long.

THE
OLIVE FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER OLIVE, *Buff.*

TWENTY-EIGHTH SPECIES:

Motacilla Æquinoctialis, Gmel.

Sylvia Æquinoctialis, Lath. Ind.

The Æquinoctial Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS is another fig-eater which is pretty common in Cayenne, where it is stationary. All the upper part of the body, and
8 of

THE PROTHONOTARY FIG-EATER. 315

of the head, is of an olive green on a brown ground; the same olive strikes also through the blackish brown of the wings and tail: the lower part of the throat and breast, as far as the belly, is of a light yellow. It is also one of the largest of the fig-eaters, for it is near five inches long.

THE

PROTHONOTARY FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER PROTHONOTAIRE, *Buff.*

TWENTY-NINTH SPECIES.

Motacilla-Protonotarius, Gmel.

Sylvia-Protonotarius, Lath.

The Prothonotary Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THIS bird is called *Prothonotary* in Louisiana, and we shall retain the name, in order to discriminate it from the other fig-eaters. The head, the throat, the neck, the breast, and the belly, are of a fine jonquil yellow; the back olive; the rump cinereous; the inferior coverts of the tail white; the quills of the

the wings, and of the tail, blackish and cinereous; the bill and the legs black.

Besides the foregoing twenty-nine species of fig-eaters, which are all natives of the New World, there are five species or varieties in Louisiana alone. The specimens are preserved in M. Mauduit's cabinet, and were brought by Le Beau, king's physician in Louisiana.

T H E
HALF-COLLARED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A DEMI-COLLIER, *Buff.*

T H I R T I E T H S P E C I E S .

Motacilla Semitorquata, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Semitorquata, *Lath. Ind.*

The Half-collared Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THIS little bird is of a very light ash colour below the throat, and on all the under surface of the body: there is a yellowish half

half collar on the lower part of the neck : the upper side of the head is olive, bordering on yellow : there is a cinereous bar behind the eyes : the superior coverts of the wings are brown, edged with whitish ; and the middle quills are also brown, but edged with olive, and tipped with white : the belly has a yellowish tint : the quills of the tail are cinereous : the two middle ones have no white : the four on each side of these are edged with white on the inside : all the ten are pointed at the end : the bill is blackish above, and whitish below. The bird is four inches and a half long ; the tail twenty-one lines, and projecting ten lines beyond the wings : the legs are blackish.

THE

YELLOW-THROATED FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER A GORGE JAUNE, *Buff.*

THIRTY-FIRST SPECIES.

*Motacilla Fulva, Gmel.**Sylvia Fulva, Lath. Ind.*The Orange-bellied Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THE throat, the neck, and the top of the breast, are yellow; only the top of the breast is a little more dusky: the rest of the under side of the body is rusty, verging to yellow on the inferior coverts of the tail: the head and the upper side of the body are brown olive: the small inferior coverts of the wings are yellow, variegated with brown, which forms a distinct yellow border: the quills of the wings are brown; the middle ones edged with olive, and the great ones with light gray, which, growing more dilute, becomes white on the first quill: those of the tail are brown, edged with olive: the bill is brown above, and lighter brown below: the legs are of a yellowish brown.

THE

THE
OLIVE-BROWN FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER BRUN-OLIVE, *Buff.*

THIRTY-SECOND SPECIES.

Motacilla Fufca, Gmel.

Sylvia Fufca, Lath. Ind.

The Olive-brown Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THE upper side of the head, of the neck, and of the body, is brown, verging on olive; the superior coverts of the tail olive: the throat, the fore part of the neck, the breast, and the flanks, are whitish, and variegated with gray streaks: the belly is yellowish white: the inferior coverts of the tail are entirely yellow: the superior coverts of the wings, and their middle quills, are brown, edged with a lighter brown, and tipped with whitish: the great quills of the wings are brown, edged with light gray: the quills of the tail are also brown, edged with light gray, and with a yellowish tint on the middle ones: the two lateral ones on each side are marked with a white spot at the extremity of their interior

320 THE GRASSET FIG-EATER.

terior surface, and the first on each side is tipped with white: the bill is brown above, and of a diluter brown below: the legs are brown.

T H E

GRASSET FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER GRASSET, *Buff.*

T H I R T Y - T H I R D S P E C I E S.

Motacilla Pinguis, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Pinguis, *Lath.*

The Grasset Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THE upper side of the head and of the body is of a deep greenish gray, or of a coarse olive green, with a yellow spot on the head, and black streaks on the body: the rump is yellow: the throat, and the under side of the neck, are of a rusty colour, through which the deep cinereous ground appears: the rest of the under side of the body is whitish: the great quills of the wings are brown, edged exteriorly with gray, and interiorly with whitish: the middle quills are blackish, edged exteriorly and tipped

ASH-THROATED CINEREOUS FIG-EATER. 321

tipped with gray: the quills of the tail are black, edged with gray: the four lateral quills are each marked with a white spot near the end of their interior surface: the bill and legs are black.

T H E

ASH-THROATED CINEREOUS
FIG-EATER.

LE FIGUIER CENDRÉ A GORGE CENDRÉE,
Buff.

THIRTY-FOURTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Cana, Gmel.

Sylvia Cana, Lath. Ind.

The Gray-throated Warbler, *Penn. & Lath.*

THE head and the upper side of the body are cinereous: the throat and all the under side of the body are of a lighter cinereous: the quills of the wings are cinereous, edged with whitish; the quills of the tail black; but the first on each side is almost entirely white: the second quill is white on the half next the end:

VOL. V.

Y

the

the third is only tipped with white : the bill is black above, and gray below.

This and the preceding are called *grassets* in Louisiana, because they are very fat (*gras*). They perch on the tulip-trees, particularly on the magnolia, which is an evergreen species. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Cana* : "It is cinereous ; its wing quills whitish ; its tail quills black ; the outermost entirely white."

T H E

GREAT FIG-EATER OF JAMAICA.

LE GRAND FIGUIER DE LA JAMAIQUE, *Buff.*

T H I R T Y - F I F T H S P E C I E S .

Motacilla-Calidris, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Calidris, Lath. Ind.

Ficedula Jamaicensis Major, Briss.

The Hang-nest Warbler, Lath. Syn.

EDWARDS was the first who described this bird. He terms it the *American Nightingale*. But it is by no means a nightingale, and it has all the characters of the fig-eaters, with which Brisson has properly ranged it. The upper

upper mandible is blackish; the lower flesh-coloured: the upper surface of the back, of the head, and of the wings, is brown, with an obscure tinge of greenish: the edges of the quills are of a lighter greenish yellow: an orange colour predominates on the under side of the body, from the throat to the tail: the inferior coverts of the wings, and all those of the tail, and also the inner webs of the quills, are of the same colour. From the angle of the bill a black streak stretches across the eye; another extends below it: between these two, and under them, the orange forms two bars: the legs and toes are blackish. The bird is nearly as large as the red-breast, and not quite so thick. Edwards remarks that it bears great resemblance to what Sloane, in his Natural History of Jamaica, calls the *Icterus Minor, nidum suspendens*. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Calidris*: "Above it is greenish brown; below fulvous; a line upon and under the eyes black." It is of the size of the red-breast.

We cannot omit noticing three birds which our nomenclators have confounded with fig-eaters, but which are undoubtedly of a different kind.

These are, 1. *The Great Fig-eater of Jamaica*, mentioned by Brisson in his Supplement: its bill is entirely different from that of the fig-eaters.

2. *The Pennsylvanian Fig-eater**, which is also distinguished from the fig-eaters by its bill, and appears to be of the same genus with the preceding.

3. *The Great Fig-eater of Madagascar*, in the ornithology of the same author, which has rather the bill of the blackbird than of the fig-eater.

* The *Motacilla Vermivora* of Gmelin, or the *Worm-eater*, which is the subject of the next article.

T H E

M I D D L E - B I L L S.

Les Demi-Fins, *Buff.*

WHEN we compare the birds which inhabit the two continents, we perceive that those with strong bills, and which feed upon grain, are the most numerous in the old ; but, on the contrary, those which have slender bills, and subsist upon insects, predominate in the new. This circumstance strikingly evinces the extensive influence which human industry has upon the productions of nature : for it is obviously the cultivation of the various sorts of corn, subservient to the support of man, that has multiplied the granivorous birds. In the vast deserts of America, in her magnificent forests, and her immense savannas, where rude unassisted nature yields nothing similar to our corn, and affords only fruits and small feeds, with enormous quantities of insects, there the number of the species of birds which feed on these, and have slender bills, is proportionally great : but an insensible gradation connects the various productions of the universe, and bids defiance to the shackles of system.

Between the birds with strong bills and those with slender ones there is an intermediate class, which, though it has never been admitted by nomenclators*, has a real existence. It comprehends those birds in the New World which have stronger bills than the *pipits*, but not so strong as the tanagres; and also those birds of the old continent which have stronger bills than the *fauvettes*, but not so strong as the larks. We might refer to it not only the calandre and other larks, but many species which have been ranged in other classes, because this was not yet formed. Lastly, the titmice will occupy the place between the middle-bills and those which have slender bills: for though they appear delicate, yet, if we compare their thickness with their shortness, and consider that they can break a nut, and pierce the head of much larger birds, we shall be convinced that they have considerable strength.

* When this article was sent to the press, I found that Edwards, in his Catalogue of Birds, &c. at the end of his seventh volume, has reckoned, among those with bills of middle thickness, the following birds:

1. His Scarlet Bird.
2. His Red Summer Bird.
3. His White-faced Manakin.
4. His American Hedge-sparrow.
5. His Indian Red-tail.
6. His Olive Flycatcher.
7. His Worm-eater.

T H E
W O R M - E A T E R.

Le Demi-Fin, Mangeur de Vers, *Buff.*

Motacilla Vermivora, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Vermivora, *Lath. Ind.*

Ficedula Pennsylvanica, *Briff.*

THIS bird is entirely different from another worm-eater mentioned by Sloane: it is discriminated by its climate, and by its natural qualities. The bill is pretty sharp, brown above, and flesh-coloured below: its head is orange, and on each side there are two black bars, of which the one passes across the eye, and the other below it; and they are separated by a yellowish bar, beyond which they join near the back of the head: the throat and the breast are also of an orange colour, but which grows more dilute, as it diverges from the anterior parts, and is only whitish on the inferior coverts of the tail: the upper side of the neck, the back, the wings, and the tail, are of a deep olive green: the inferior coverts of the wings are of a yellowish white: the legs are flesh-coloured.

This bird is found in Pennsylvania, where it

is migratory, as are all those with slender bills, and some of those which have strong bills. It arrives in the month of July, and advances towards the north; but it is not seen, in that province, to return again in autumn; and the same is the case with all the others which pass in the spring. Edwards supposes that their route to the south lies beyond the Apalachian mountains; and undoubtedly they must be induced to change their track, by the greater abundance of insects and worms which the back countries then afford.

This worm-eater is somewhat larger than the black-cap. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Vermivora*:
“It is olive; its head, throat, and breast fulvous; the stripe on its eyes, and the arch of its eyebrows, black; a yellowish line above the eyes; the vent cinereous.”

THE

BLACK AND BLUE MIDDLE-BILL.

Le Demi-Fin Noir & Bleu, *Buff.*

Fringilla Cyanomelas, Gmel.

The Blue-headed Finch, *Lath.*

KOELREUTER *, who first described this bird, says that it is a very rare species, and brought from India. He tells us that the bill is longer and more slender than in the finches †, and consequently it ought to be referred to the class of the middle-bills.

Except the bill, which is brown, and the legs, which are also brown, but more dilute, this bird has only black and blue on its plumage: the black is spread on the throat, the bottom of the wing, and the fore part of the back, where it forms a semi-circle, whose convexity is turned towards the tail: besides this, there is a black streak which joins each nostril to the eye on the same side: the quills of the wings are

* "Blue finch; its chin, its throat, the base of its wings, and the fore part of its back, black." *J. T. Koelreuter. Petersburg Transactions for 1765, p. 434.*

† It is odd that, after making that assertion, he should reckon it a finch.

blackish,

blackish, edged with blue, and this edging is broader in the middle ones: all the rest of the plumage is varying blue, with copper-coloured reflexions.

This bird is nearly as large as the greater red-poll: its bill is five lines and a half long, and its tail consists of twelve equal quills.

THE

BLACK AND RUFOUS MIDDLE-BILL.

Le Demi-Fin Noir & Roux, *Buff.*

Motacilla Bonariensis, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Bonariensis, *Lath. Ind.*

The White-chinned Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

COMMERSON* saw this bird at Buenos-Ayres. All the upper side of the head and body, from the base of the bill to the end of the tail, is of a distinct black: the throat, the fore part of the neck, and the flanks, are of a rust colour: there is some white between the forehead and the eyes, at the rise of the throat, on the middle of the belly, at the bottom of the wings, and at the extremity of the exterior quills of the tail: the bill is blackish; the nostrils very near its base, and half covered with small feathers: the iris is chestnut: the pupil is blackish blue; the tongue triangular, and not divided at the tip; lastly, the hind nail is the strongest of all.

* "Finch; black above from the front to the end of the tail; the throat, the lower part of the neck, and the belly, ferruginous; the middle of the lower belly, and the beginning of the throat, whitish." *Commerfon.*

Commerfon,

Commerſon, induced no doubt by the ſhape of its bill, affigns this bird a place between the finches and the birds with ſlender bills *: and, for this reaſon, I have ranged it with the middle-bills. The name of finch, according to Commerſon himſelf, does not correſpond with it, though he is obliged, for want of another term, to apply that. The bird is nearly as large as the linnet.

Total length five inches and two thirds; the bill five lines; the tail twenty-fix lines, and conſiſts of twelve quills; and it projects twenty lines beyond the wings, which contain fixteen or ſeventeen quills.

* M. Commerſon ſeems often to lean to the ſyſtem of Linnaeus,

THE

B I M B E L É,

OR BASTARD LINNET.

Le Bimbelé, ou La Fausse Linotte, *Buff.*Motacilla Palmarum, *Gmel.*Sylvia Palmarum, *Lath. Ind.*The Palm Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

I OWE the information which I have obtained in regard to this bird to the Chevalier Le Fevre Deshayes, who sent me a drawing of it. It is called *bimbelé* by the negroes, from its resemblance to an African bird of that name. But probably this appellation is not better applied than that of bastard linnet; for the bird resembles the linnet neither in its song, in its plumage, nor the shape of its bill.

Its song is not varied or rich: it turns on four or five notes. However, it is pleasant: for the tones are full, soft, and mellow.

It lives on fruits and small seeds. It prefers the haunt of the palms, and builds its nest in a
fort

sort of roost, which the palm birds and others form on those trees, at the place where the footstalk supporting the cluster is inserted. It lays only two or three eggs, and this is perhaps one of the reasons the *bimbelé's* are so rare.

Its plumage is still inferior to its song: the throat, the fore part of the neck, the breast, and the top of the belly, are dirty white, tinged with yellow: the legs, the lower belly, and the inferior coverts of the tail, are of a faint yellow; the flanks deep gray: all the upper part brown, deeper on the head, and lighter on the back: the rump and the superior coverts of the tail are olive green: the quills, and the superior coverts of the wings, and the quills of the tail, brown, edged exteriorly with a lighter colour: the two outer pairs of the tail quills edged interiorly with a broad bar of pure white near their extremity: the lower face of all these quills is of a slate gray: the iris is light brown.

The *bimbelé* weighs rather less than two gros and an half.

Total length five inches; the bill seven lines, very acute; the nostrils oblong, with a protuberance; the alar extent seven inches; eighteen quills in each wing; the tail about eighteen

lines, composed of twelve quills nearly equal, and projects an inch beyond the wings. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Palmarum*: "It is brown; below dirty ochry white; the belly yellowish; the rump olive; the two outermost tail quills marked with a white stripe on the inside near the tip."

T H E
B A N A N A W A R B L E R.

Le Bananiste, *Buff.*

Motacilla Bonanivora, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Bonanivora, *Lath.*

WE have already noticed a Jamaica bird among the finches, and termed it *bonana*, but which must be discriminated from this. The present is much smaller, its plumage is different, and, though it haunts the same tree, its habits are probably distinct. We might decide this matter, if the bird mentioned by Sloane were as well known as that which we are to describe from a coloured drawing, and an account of it sent by the Chevalier Deshayes. It is found in Saint Domingo, and the negroes affirm that it suspends its nest: it is often seen on the bananas; but other birds also feed on the fruit of these trees, and therefore the name is not appropriated to it.

The banana warbler has a bill somewhat curved, very acute, and of a middle size. Besides bananas, it feeds on oranges, citronelles, avigato pears, and papaws. We cannot decide whether it also eats seeds or insects; but certainly

tainly there were no traces of these in the stomach of the one dissected. It lodges in the banana plantations, in the grounds uncultivated and covered with bushes. It flies by starts and jerks, and its motion is rapid, and attended with a little noise. Its warble is scarcely varied: it is a series of cadences that rest more or less on the same tone.

But though the Bonana flies swiftly, Deshayes regards it as too weak and delicate to perform distant journeys, and to support the cold of the northern climates; he therefore concludes it to be a native of the new continent.

The upper side of the body is of a deep gray, almost blackish, which approaches to brown on the tail, and the coverts of the wings: the quills of the tail are not so deep coloured as those of the wings, and are tipped with white: it has a sort of white eyebrows: the eyes are placed in a black bar, which rises from the bill, and melts into the dark colour of the back of the head: the throat is ash gray: the breast, the belly, and the rump, are of a delicate yellow: the flanks, the thighs, and the inferior coverts of the tail, are variegated with light yellow and gray: some of the inferior coverts are white, and rise on the tail: the anterior part of the shoulders is of a fine yellow: the bill is black; the legs slate gray.

Total length, three inches eight lines; the bill four lines; the nostrils broad, and like an inverted crescent, with a protuberance of the same shape, but of an opposite position: the tongue pointed; the *tarsus* seven lines; the alar extent six inches; the wings composed of seventeen quills; the tail fourteen or fifteen lines, and exceeds the wings about six or seven lines.

THE

M I D D L E - B I L L,

WITH WHITE CREST AND THROAT.

Le Demi-Fin à Huppe & Gorge Blanches, *Buff.**Pipra Albifrons*, *Linn.* & *Gmel.*The White-faced Manakin, *Edw.* & *Lath.*

ALL that Edwards, who first described and figured this bird, mentions in regard to its history, is, that it is a native of South America and of the adjacent islands, such as Cayenne. Its crest consists of white feathers, which are long, narrow, and pointed: in the placid state they are reclined on the head, but when the bird is agitated by passion they become erect: the throat is white, edged with a black belt, which stretches from the one eye to the other: the back of the head, the fore part of the neck, the breast, the belly, the rump, the quills of the tail, their coverts both superior and inferior, and the inferior coverts of the wings, are orange, which is more or less bright: the top of the back, the lower part of the neck joining the quills of the wings, their superior coverts, and the thighs, are of a deep cinereous, verging more or less on

Z 2

blue:

blue: the bill is black, straight, pretty acute, and of a middle size: the legs are orange yellow.

Total length, five inches and a quarter; the bill eight or nine lines; the *tarsus* ten lines; the outer toe connected almost its whole length to the mid toe; the tail composed of twelve quills, and projects eight or nine lines beyond the wings. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Pipra Albifrons*: "It has a white crest, its body brick coloured, its back black."

THE

SIMPLE WARBLER, *Lath.*

L'Habit-Uni, *Buff.*

Motacilla Campestris, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Campestris, *Lath. Ind.*

Curruca Sepiaria Jamaicensis, *Briff.*

The American Hedge Sparrow, *Edw.*

EDWARDS regrets in some measure that the plumage of this bird is too simple and uniform, and that it has no peculiarity to characterise it. I shall adopt this very simplicity as the character. A sort of cinereous cowl, with a slight tinge of green, covers the head and neck: all the upper side of the body, including the wings and the tail, is of a rusty brown: the quills are ash coloured beneath; the bill black, and the legs brown.

This bird is of the size of the hedge-sparrow, but it is not of the same species, though Edwards has applied the same name; he expressly says that its bill is thicker and stronger. It is found in Jamaica. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla Campestris*:
"It is brown; its head greenish cinereous; its tail quills of the same colour with the body; its belly whitish."

T H E
P I T P I T S.

THOUGH these birds bear great resemblance to the fig-eaters, and also inhabit the new continent, the difference is still so considerable, that they ought to be regarded as forming a distinct and separate genus. Most of the fig-eaters are migratory: all the pitpits continue settled in the hottest parts of America. They remain in the woods, and perch on the large trees; whereas the fig-eaters haunt only the cleared grounds, and lodge among the bushes, and on the middle-sized trees. The pitpits are also more social than the fig-eaters: they keep in large flocks, and mix familiarly with the small birds of other species: they are more joyous and lively, and are continually hopping. But besides the difference of their habits, they are also discriminated by their conformation: their bill is thicker, and not so slender as that of the fig-eaters; and for this reason we have placed the middle-bills between them and the fig-eaters. The tail of the pitpits is also square-terminated, while, in the fig-eaters, it is somewhat forked. These two characters, drawn
from

from the bill and the tail, are a sufficient foundation for forming two genera of these birds.

We know only five species of the pitpits, and they are all found in Guiana and Brazil, and are nearly of the same size.

THE
GREEN PITPIT.

FIRST SPECIES.

Motacilla Cyanocephala, Gmel.

Sylvia Cyanocephala, Lath. Ind.

Sylvia Viridis, Briss.

The Blue-headed Warbler, Lath. Syn.

THE pitpits are in general nearly as large as the fig-eaters, but rather thicker: they are four and a half or five inches long. In the kind which we call the *green pitpit* the head and the small superior coverts of the wings only are of a fine blue, and the throat of a blueish gray; but all the rest of the body and the great superior coverts of the wings are of a brilliant green: the quills of the wings are brown, edged exteriorly with green: those of the tail are of a duller green: the bill is brown, and the legs gray. It is pretty common at Cayenne.

THE
BLUE PITPIT.

SECOND SPECIES.

Motacilla Cayana, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Cayana, *Lath. Ind.*

Sylvia Cayanensis Cærulea, *Briss.*

The Cayenne Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS is as frequent at Cayenne as the preceding: it is nearly of the same size, but it forms a separate species, which even includes varieties. The face, the sides of the head, the anterior part of the back, the wings, and the tail, are of a fine black: the rest of the plumage is of a fine blue: the bill is blackish, and the legs gray.

VARIETIES of the BLUE PITPIT.

1. The bird called by Edwards the *blue manakin*: for the only difference it has from the blue pitpit is, that the throat is black, and the face, as well as the sides of the head, blue, like the rest of the body.

2. The

2. The bird figured in the *Planches Enluminées*, No. 669, fig. 1, and denominated the *Blue Pitpit of Cayenne*; the only difference being, that it has no black on the face, or on the sides of the head.

We must observe that Briffon regards the Mexican bird given by Fernandez under the name of *elotototl*, as a blue pitpit: but we cannot discover any foundation for this opinion; since Fernandez is the only one who has seen that bird, and all that he says is, "that the *elotototl* is hardly so large as a goldfinch; that it is white or blueish, and its tail black; that it inhabits the mountains of Tetzocano; that its flesh is palatable; that it has no song; and, for that reason, is not bred in houses." From this account, it is impossible to conclude that this Mexican bird is a blue pitpit more than any other species.

THE
VARIEGATED PITPIT.

THIRD SPECIES.

Motacilla-Velia, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Velia, Lath. Ind.

Luscinia ex Cæruleo & Rubro Varia, Klein.

The Red-bellied Warbler, Lath. Syn.

THIS bird is found at Surinam and Cayenne. The face is of a sea green: the upper side of the head, of the neck, and of the back, is of a fine black: the rump is golden green; the throat violet blue; the lower part of the neck and breast variegated with violet and brown; the rest of the under side of the body rufous; the superior coverts of the tail, and the small coverts of the upper side of the wings, blue; the great coverts and quills of the wings, and those of the tail, black, edged with blue: the upper mandible is brown; the lower whitish: the legs are cinereous. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Velia*: "It is blue; the belly and rump fulvous."

THE
BLUE-CAPPED PITPIT.

FOURTH SPECIES.

Motacilla Lineata, *Gmel.*

Sylvia Lineata, *Lath. Ind.*

The Blue-striped Warbler, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS is a new species, and, like the rest, it is found in Cayenne. We call it the *blue-capped pitpit* *, because it has a sort of cap of a deep bright blue, which rises on the face, passes over the eyes, and reaches to the middle of the back; only on the crown of the head there is a blue longitudinal spot. It is conspicuous from a white ray that begins at the middle of the breast, and extends spreading to the under side of the tail: the rest of the under side of the body is blue: the bill and legs are black.

* *Pitpit à Coiffe Bleue.*

THE

T H E
G U I R A - B E R A B A .

F I F T H S P E C I E S .

Motacilla-Guira, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia Brasiliensis Viridis, *Briss.*

Guira-Guacu-Beraba, *Marcg. Ray, Edw. &c.*

The Guira Warbler, *Lath.*

THIS bird, which Marcgrave has described, appears to me to belong to the pitpits; though his account is not sufficiently complete to preclude its being ranged with the fig-eaters. It is as large as the goldfinch, which exceeds the ordinary size of the fig-eaters, and even of the pitpits. The upper side of its head, its neck, its back, its wings, and its tail, are of a light green: its throat is black: the rest of the under side of the body and the rump is of a gold yellow: some quills of the wings are brown at their ends: the bill is straight, sharp, and yellow, with a little black on the upper mandible: the legs are brown.

We will observe that Brisson has confounded this bird with that which Piso has given under the name of *guira-perea*, though they are certainly

certainly different ; for the *guira-perea* of Piso has its plumage entirely gold colour, except the wings and the tail, which are light green : it is besides spotted like the stare on the breast and the belly. We need only to compare the two descriptions, to see evidently that the *guira-perea* of Piso is not the same bird with the *guira-beraba* of Marcgrave, and that they have only the common name of *guira*, but with different epithets. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Motacilla-Guira* : “ It is green ; below yellow ; its cheeks and throat black, encircled with a yellow line.”

T H E
Y E L L O W W R E N.

Le Pouillot ou Le Chantre, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Trochilus, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia-Trochilus, *Lath.*

Motacilla Hispanica, *Hasselq.*

Afilus, *Gesner, Briss. Ray, Will. &c.*

The Green Wren, *Alb.**

THE three smallest of our European birds are the gold-crested wren, the common wren, and the yellow wren. The latter, though not larger than the rest, is rather longer : it has the shape, the size, and figure of a little fig-eater ; for the yellow wren might be ranged in that genus, which is already so numerous, were it not much better to give each species its proper name, which is well known, than to confound it among generic appellations. It might be

* The Greek name *Οιστρος*, and the Latin *Afilus*, signify a *horse-fly* or *gad-bee* ; and hence were applied to this bird, probably on account of its diminutive size. In Catalonian, *Xiuxerra* : in Polish, *Krolic Nieczubaty* : in the Boulonois, *Reatin* : in Provence, *Fifi* : in Burgundy, *Fenerotel* or *Fretillet* : in Lorraine, *Tuit* : in Sologne, *Frelot*, *Frelotte*, *Fouillot*, *Toute-Vive* : in the Orleanois, *Vetti-Vetto*, *Tolitolo* : in Normandy, *Pouillot*, or *Pouliot*.

termed

termed the *little European fig-eater*, and I wonder that some nomenclator has not thought of this classification. Its French name *pouillot* is evidently derived from the Latin *pullus* or *pusillus*, signifying small and feeble.

The yellow wren feeds on flies and other little insects: its bill is slender and tapered, the outside of a shining brown, the inside and the edges yellow*: the plumage consists of two faint tints of greenish gray and yellowish white: the first spreads on the back and the head: a yellowish line, rising from the corner of the bill, passes near the eye, and extends to the temple: the quills of the wings are of a dull gray, and, like those of the tail, have their outer edge fringed with greenish yellow: the throat is yellowish, and there is a spot of the same colour on each side of the breast, where the wing rests: the belly and the stomach are white, which is more or less dashed with a weak yellow, according to the age of the bird, or its difference of sex†: in general, the plumage of the yellow wren resembles that of the gold-crested wren, which has only an additional white spot on the wing, and a yellow crest‡.

The yellow wren resides in the woods during

* Belon. † Willughby.

‡ Aldrovandus and Belon.

summer:

summer: it builds its nest in the heart of the bushes, or in a tuft of thick herbage: the construction is as artful as it is concealed: the outside consists of moss, and the inside is lined with hair or wool: the whole is closely interwoven and covered, and is shaped like a ball, as that of the gold-crested wren, the common wren, and the long-tailed titmouse. It would seem that the voice of nature has directed these four very small birds to the structure of this nest; since their heat, if not guarded and concentrated, would be insufficient for incubation. And this is an additional proof, that in all animals the faculty of propagating their species perhaps surpasses the instinct for self-preservation. The female of the yellow wren lays commonly four or five eggs, and sometimes six or seven, of a dirty white, dotted with reddish*. The young ones remain in the nest until they can fly with ease.

In autumn, the yellow wren leaves the woods, and sings in our gardens and vineyards: it seems to repeat the sounds *tuit, tuit*, which is

* Willughby and Ray.—“This little bird is much attached to its nest, which it will hardly forsake. A friend of mind told me that, one day having found a nest of this bird, he made it lay thirty eggs one after another, by removing one every day: after which he took pity on the tender dam, and suffered her to hatch.” *Salerne.*

the

the name it receives in some provinces*, as in Lorraine, where subsists no trace of the appellation *chofri* †, bestowed in the time of Belon; and which, according to him, signified *singer*, alluding to the variety and continuance of its warble‡, which lasts during the whole spring and summer. The song has three or four variations, which are mostly modulated: it begins with a slender broken cluck, which is succeeded by a series of silvery detached sounds, like the clinking of telling crown pieces: this is probably what Willughby and Albin compare to the stridulous voice of grasshoppers. After these two notes, very different from each other, the bird sings its full song: it is soft, pleasant, and well supported: it lasts during all the spring and summer; but in the month of August it gives place to a slender whistle, *tuit, tuit*, which

* In Tuscany, *Lui*; it pronounces this name with a plaintive voice, says Olina, without having any other song. This seems to shew that the yellow wren does not pass the summer in Italy; which is the more probable, as Olina afterwards mentions its being seen in winter.

† It has still this name in the forest of Orleans. *Salerne.*

‡ This little bird varies infinitely its song: it is one of the first to announce the return of spring. I have heard it sing more than three weeks before the wild nightingale."
Salerne.

is nearly the same in the red-tail and in the nightingale*.

The yellow wren is extremely active: it incessantly flutters briskly from one branch to another: it darts from its place to catch a fly: it returns and searches continually among the leaves, on both sides, for insects, which in some provinces has given occasion to the name of *frisker* (*fretillet*, *fenerotet*): it has a small oscillation of the tail upwards and downwards, but slow and regular.

These birds arrive in April, often before the leaves are unfolded. They form flocks of fifteen or twenty during their passage; but they immediately separate into pairs. Sometimes, shortly after their appearance, they are surprised by frosts, and drop dead in the roads†.

This delicate little species is however widely diffused. It even visits Sweden, where Linnaeus says it inhabits the willow plots‡. It is known in all the provinces of France: in Burgundy it is called *fenerotet*: in Champagne

* This is probably what Willughby terms a querulous voice. *Ornithol.* p. 164.

† "This little bird is so feeble, that if we cast a clod at the branch on which it sits, it will be stunned by the shake, and tumble off." *Salerne*.

‡ *Fauna Suecica*, No. 236.

fretillet: in Provence, *fifi* *. It is also found in Italy †; and the Greeks seem to have known it by the term *οιστρος* ‡ (*a gad-fly*). It is probable that the *small green wren*, which Edwards tells us was brought from Bengal, is only a variety of the European yellow wren. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Yellow or Willow Wren, *Motacilla-Trochilus*: "It is cinereous greenish; the under side of its wings and their coverts yellowish; its eyebrows yellow." Mr. White asserts that there are three species of the willow wren, which differ in their size, and in their note. The yellowest bird is considerably the largest, and is distinguished by having its quills tipped with white. It haunts the tops of trees, and makes a sibilous noise like a grasshopper; at intervals it rises singing and shivering its wings. But it were rash to multiply species. This bird is much subject to variety in point of size and plumage; and its note must evidently depend on the season of the year.

* M. Guys.

† Aldrovandus.

‡ Aristotle (lib. viii. 3) only names the *οιστρος* between the *υπολαις* and the *τυραννος*, as one of these little birds that feed upon insects. "Two circumstances induce us to think that this is the *afilus*: the first, that it would be so called in Greece on account of its smallness; the second, that, as the gad-fly makes a continual noise with its wings, so this bird sings almost incessantly." Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 344.

THE

GREAT YELLOW WREN.

WE are acquainted with another yellow wren, which is not so small by a fourth part as the preceding, and differs too by its colours: its throat is white, and there is a whitish streak across the eye: a rusty tint, on a whitish ground, covers the breast and belly: the same tint forms a broad fringe on the coverts and quills of the wings, of which the ground is blackish: a mixture of these two colours appears on the back and the head: in other respects, this bird has the same shape with the common yellow wren. It is found in Lorraine, whence it was sent to us: but as we are ignorant of its natural habits, we cannot decide with regard to the identity of these two species.

With respect to the *great yellow wren*, which Brisson reckons, after Willughby, as a variety of the common kind, and which *has double the size*, it is difficult, if the matter is not exaggerated, to conceive that a bird of twice the bulk should belong to the same species. Probably Willughby mistook the sedge warbler for the yellow wren, which resembles it much, and is actually twice as large.

B  L

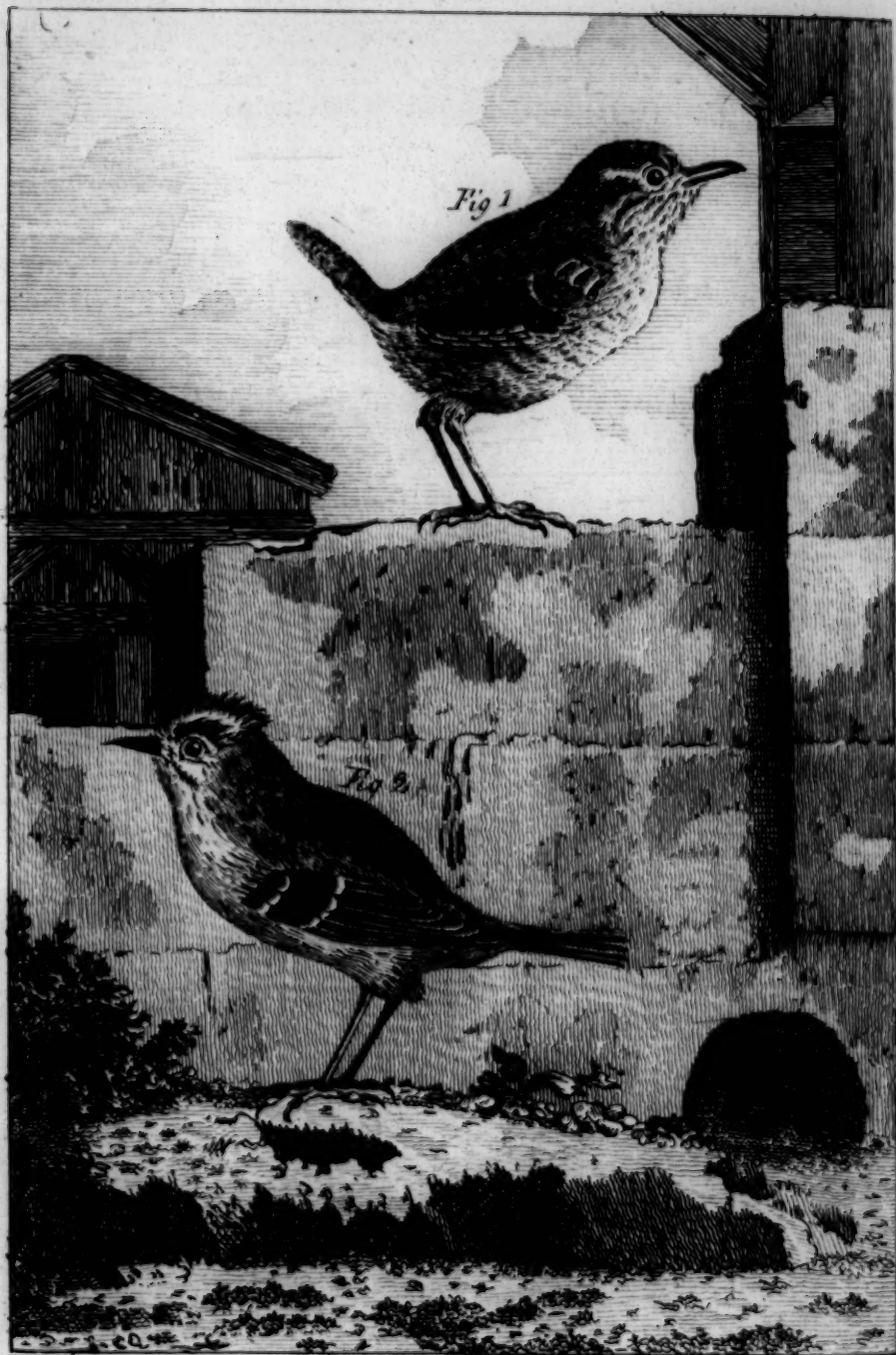


FIG 1. THE WREN, FIG 2, THE GOLD CROWNED WREN.

THE
COMMON WREN.

Le Troglodyte, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Troglodytes, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Troglodytes, *Gesner, Aldrov. Will. Sibb. &c.*

Regulus, *Briss.*

THE name *troglodytes* *, which the ancients bestowed on this little bird, denoted its inhabiting caves or caverns. The moderns have erroneously confounded it with the gold-crested wren: the latter resorts near our dwellings in winter: it emerges from the heart of bushes

* In Greek Τροχιλος, from τροχος a top, which comes from τρεχω to run, or whirl; also Τρωγλοδυτης, from τρωγλη a cave, or hole, and δυμι to enter: the Romans adopted these names, *Trochilus* and *Troglodytes*: in Italian, *Reattino*, *Re di Siepe* (hedge-king): in Tuscany, *Stricciolo*: in Sicily, *Perchia Chagia*: in German, *Schnee-Koënicg*, *Winter-Koënicg*, *Zaun-Koënicg*, *Thurn-Koënicg*, *Meuse-Koënicg*, *Zaun Schlopflin* (the snow, winter, hedge, thorn, king; the hedge-slipper): in Swedish, *Tumling*: in Polish, *Kroluk*, *Pokrywuska*, *Wolowe Oczko*: in Turkish, *Bilbil*: in Provence it is called *Vaque-Petoué*, and *Roi-Bedelet*: in Saintonge, *Roi-Bouti*: in Sologne, *Roi-Berry*: in Poitou, *Quionquion*: in Guienne, *Ar-repit*: in Normandy, *Rebetre*: in Anjou, *Berichon*, or *Roi-Bertaud*: in Orleanois, *Ratillon* or *Ratereau*, *Petit-Rat*: in Burgundy, *Fourre-Buiffon* and *Roi de Froidure*.

and thick boughs, and enters into little lodgements which it makes in the holes of walls. Aristotle discriminates it by this habit *, and selects other features, which it is impossible to mistake; and because of its gold crest, he terms it little king, or *regulus* (*roitelet*) †. But the *trogodytes*, or common wren, is so different both in its figure and in its œconomy, that the same name should never have been applied to it. Yet it is an error of ancient date, perhaps as early as the time of Aristotle ‡. Gesner has pointed it out §; but, notwithstanding his authority, supported by Aldrovandus and Willughby, who clearly distinguish these birds ||, other naturalists still persist in confounding them ¶.

The

* “The *trochilus* inhabits orchards and holes; is difficult to be caught, and elusive.” *Arist.* lib. ix. 2.

† The *tyrannus* (king), which is not much larger than a locust, has a flame-coloured crest, formed by a slight elevation of the plumage: in other respects it is beautiful, and sings sweetly.” *Arist. Hist. Anim.* lib. viii. 3.

‡ “The *trochilus* is called also chief, or king; wherefore the eagle is reported to fight with it.” *Id.* lib. ix. 2.

§ Willughby.

|| Turner, under the appellation of *trochilus*, describes the common wren; and Ætius gives a very accurate account of it, distinguishing it judiciously from the gold-crested wren. See Aldrovandus, vol. ii. p. 655.

¶ Olina, Belon, Albin, and Brisson term it *Regulus*: Frisch and Schwenckfeld, after having named it *trogodytes*,
call

The *troglydtes*, then, is that very small bird which appears in the villages and near towns on the approach of winter, and even in the coldest weather, having a clear sprightly little warble, particularly towards evening; it pops out on the top of piles of wood or bundles of faggots, and next moment glides into cover; or if it ventures out on the eaves of a house, it quickly hides itself under the roof, or in a hole of the wall; when it hops among the heaped branches: its little tail is always cocked. Its flight is short and whirling, and its wings beat so briskly, that their vibrations are not perceptible. Hence the Greeks called it *trochilus*, which is probably the diminutive of *trochus**, a top; and this appellation not only refers to its mode of flying, but corresponds to its round compact form.

The wren is only three inches nine lines long, and its alar extent five inches and an half; its bill six lines, and its legs eight: all its plu-

call it likewise *Regulus*: but Gefner, Aldrovandus, Johnston, Willughby, and Sibbald, reject the latter appellation, and adhere to that of *troglydtes*. Klein, Barrère, and Gefner himself again apply to the gold-crested wren the name of *trochilus*, which in Aristotle denotes evidently the common wren. Brisson copies their error.

* "*Trochilus* is derived from *trochus*, because of its top-like shape." Klein.

mage is intersected transversely with little wavy zones of deep brown and blackish on the body and the wings, and even on the head and the tail: the under side of its body is mixed with whitish and gray: it is the plumage of the woodcock in miniature *. It weighs scarcely quarter of an ounce.

This very small bird is almost the only one that continues in our climate till the depth of winter; and it alone retains its cheerfulness in that dreary season: it is always brisk and joyous; and, as Belon says, it is constantly gay and stirring †. Its song is loud and clear, and consists of short quick notes, *fidiriti, fidiriti*: it is divided by stops of five or six seconds. It is the only light and pleasant voice that is heard during that season, when the silence of the inhabitants of the air is never interrupted but by

* I have seen children who knew the woodcock call the wren, the first time it was shewn them, a *young woodcock*.

† The expression used is *allègre & vioge*, which, Buffon remarks, has lost its energy in the French language.

When it sings, it gives its tail a brisk little motion from right to left. It has twelve quills remarkably tapered; the outermost much shorter than the next, and this than the third; but the two middle ones are also longer than the adjacent one on either side: and this property is easily perceived, since the bird not only cocks its tail, but flies with it spread.

the

the disagreeable croaking of the ravens *. The wren sings most when the snow falls †; or in the evening, when the cold threatens to increase the gloom of the night. It thus lives in the out courts and in the wood yards, searching among the faggots, on the bark, under the roofs, in the holes of walls, and even in pits, for chrysalids and dead insects. It frequents too the margins of perennial springs and brooks that never freeze, and shelters itself in the hollow willows. In such lodgments the wrens sometimes gather in numbers ‡; they often come out to drink, and return quickly to their common receptacle. Though familiar, and not disconcerted by near approach, they are difficult to catch: their smallness, and their nimbleness, enable them almost always to elude the eye and the talons of their enemies.

In the spring, the wren lives in the woods, where it builds its nest near the ground, among branches, or even on the turf; sometimes beneath the trunk of a tree, on a rock, or even under the shelving brink of a rivulet; sometimes in the thatched roof of some lone cottage in a wild retreat, and even on the hut of

* Salerne.

† Id.

‡ A sportsman told me that he has often found more than twenty collected in the same hole.

the charcoal-maker and wooden-shoe maker *, who are employed in the forests. For the construction the bird collects much moss, and of that material the outside is entirely composed; but within it is neatly lined with feathers. The nest is almost round, and externally it is so bulky and misshapen as to escape the robber's search; for it seems only a heap of moss rolled together by chance: there is only one little narrow aperture made in the side. The bird lays nine or ten dirty white eggs †, with a zone dotted with reddish at the obtuse end. It will forsake, if it perceives that they are discovered. The young ones leave their lodgment before they are able to fly, and they run like little mice among the bushes ‡. Sometimes the field-mice possess themselves of the nest; whether that the wren has forsaken it, or that these intruders drive away the bird, by destroying the hatch §. We have not discovered that, in our climate, it breeds a second time during the month of Au-

* In French, *Charbonniers* and *Sabotiers*.

† Schwenckfeld and Aldrovandus.

‡ Gesner.

§ "I found this spring in a thorn hedge, about five feet from the ground, a nest shaped like the wren's, built of moss and wool. I was much surprised, upon tearing it, to observe in it five young field mice. The nest had been built by the wrens, and the mice had taken possession of it."

Note of the Count de Querboënt.

gust, as Albertus says in Aldrovandus, and as Olina avers to be the case in Italy, adding that numbers are seen in Rome, and in its vicinity. The same author gives directions how to raise them, after they are taken from the nest; but, as Belon observes, it will be difficult to succeed, for the wren is too delicate*. We have remarked that it is fond of the company of the red-breasts; at least it attends the call with these birds: it approaches making a short cry *tirit*, *tirit*, which is of a deeper tone than its song, but equally like the sound of a clock-bell. It is so fearless and prying, that it even enters the window of the piper's lodge. It flutters and chants in the woods till dark, and, with the red-breast and blackbird, it is heard among the latest after sunset†: it is likewise one of the earliest awake. It is not prompted, however, by the pleasures of society; for it prefers retirement in the love season, and the males pursue each other hotly‡.

The species is extensively spread through

* "To raise it, we must keep it warm in the nest; give it often to eat, but little at a time, sheep's or calf's heart minced very small, and some flies. When it feeds alone, a little corner of the cage should be hemmed in with red cloth, to which the bird may retire at night."

† Turner.

‡ Belon.

Europe.

Europe. Belon says that it is common every where: however, if it endures our winters, it can hardly support the rigours of the North. Linnæus tells us that it is rare in Sweden. The names which it has in different countries suffice to distinguish it: Frisch calls it *king of winter hedges*: Schwenckfeld, *snow-king* (*Schneekoenig*): in some provinces of France it is termed *chill-king* (*roi de froidure*): one of the German names (*Zaun-Schlupfer*) alludes to its gliding into the hedges: and the old English expression, *dike smouler*, mentioned by Gesner, has the same import. The Sicilian appellation, *Perchia-chagia*, signifies *bush-borer*. In Orleanois it is called *ratereau*, or *ratillon*, because it runs among the coverts like a young field-mouse: lastly, in some provinces it is called *ox* (*bœuf*), by way of antiphrasis, on account of its extreme smallness*.

This bird seems to have two representatives in the new continent: *the Wren of Buenos Ayres* and *Wren of Louisiana*. The first is of the same size and plumage, only its colours are rather more vivid and distinct; and it may be regarded as a variety of the European kind. Commerson, who saw it at Buenos Ayres, mentions nothing of its habits, except that it is

* Hebert,

found on both banks of the river de la Plata, and that it even enters the vessels in pursuit of flies. The second is one third larger than the first: its breast and belly are of a yellowish fulvous: there is a small white ray behind the eye: the rest of the plumage on the head, the back, the wings, and the tail, is of the same colour, and marbled, as in the common wren. Father Charlevoix commends the song of the Canadian wren, which is probably the same with that of Louisiana. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Common Wren, *Motacilla-Troglodytes*: "It is gray: its wings waved with black and cinereous." Our author, on the authority of Aldrovandus and Gefner, says that it lays nine or ten eggs: but Linnæus, Pennant, and Latham agree, that it lays from ten to eighteen. The Wrens continue in Britain the whole year. They are rare in Sweden and Russia, and never penetrate to Siberia.

The North American Wren, mentioned by Charlevoix, appears in the state of New York about May, and breeds in June. It builds in holes of trees; its materials fibres and sticks, which it lines with hairs and feathers. It lays from seven to nine white eggs, with straggling spots of red. It retires southwards in August. It is twice as large as the ordinary wren, and its note is different.

THE
GOLD-CRESTED WREN.

Le Roitelet, *Buff.*

Motacilla-Regulus, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Sylvia-Regulus, *Lath.*

Regulus Cristatus, *Will. Ray, & Klein.*

Calendula, *Briff.*

Parus Sylvaticus, *Gesner & Sibbald.*

The Copped Wren, *Charleton.*

The Gold-crowned Wren, *Edw. **

THIS is the smallest of all the European birds. It passes through the meshes of common nets; cages cannot confine it; and, if let loose in a chamber, the least crack will allow it to escape. When it visits our gardens, and glides among the hedge-rows, how quickly

* In Greek, *Tupavvos*: in modern Greek, *Tetliywn*: in Italian, *Fior Rancio* (marygold flower), *Occhio Bovino* (ox eye), and *Reattino*, *Reillo*, *Regillo* (i. e. little king): in Verona, *Capo d'Oro* (gold head): in Genoa, *Boarino della Stella* (star rustic): in Bologna, *Papazzino* (little pope): in German, *Gekröentes* (crowned bird), *Königchen* (kingling), *Ochsen Aeuglein* (ox eye), *Holtz-Meisse* (wood mouse): in Swiss, *Struesle*: in Flemish, *Koninxken*: in Polish, *Krolík*, *Czubaty*, *Sikora Lefna*: in Bohemian, *Ztotohtarwek*: in Swedish, *Kongs-Vogel*: in Danish, *Fugle-Konge*: in Icelandic, *Rindill*.

does it vanish from our sight ! The smallest leaf is sufficient to conceal it. If we want to shoot it, we must use very fine sand ; for the smallest lead shot would spoil the plumage. When we have succeeded in catching it, either with lime-twigs, with the titmouse trap, or with a very close net, we must be careful not to crush the delicate bird ; and, as it is exceedingly nimble, we are not yet sure of securing it. It has a sharp shrill cry, like the whisper of the grasshopper, which is almost as large *. Aristotle says that it sings agreeably ; but probably those who communicated that fact had confounded it with the common wren, especially as the philosopher himself acknowledges that the same name was sometimes applied to both birds. The female lays six or seven eggs, which are scarcely larger than peas : the nest is formed into a hollow ball, closely interwoven with moss and spiders webs, lined with the softest down, and having an aperture in the side. It builds generally in the forests ; sometimes on the ivies and elms of our gardens, or on the pines beside our houses †.

The

* This song is not very harmonious, if Gesner heard it and understood it rightly ; for he expresses it by *zul, zil, zalp*.

† " Lord Trevor found one of these nests in his garden on
an

The smallest insects are the common food of these diminutive birds: in summer they catch these nimbly on the wing: in winter they seek the insects in their retreats, where they are torpid or dead. They also eat the *larvæ*, and all sorts of worms. They are so alert in discovering and seizing their prey, and at the same time so great epicures, that sometimes they continue to swallow till they are surfeited. During summer they feed on small berries and seeds, such as those of fennel; and they also scrape the earth under old willows, where they probably find something nutritious. I never could discover small pebbles in their gizzard.

The gold-crested wrens delight in oaks, elms, tall pines, firs, junipers, &c. In Silesia, says Schwenckfeld, they are seen both during the summer and the winter, and always in the forests. In England they inhabit the mountain woods. In Bavaria and Austria they resort in winter near the towns, where they find resources for the severity of the season. It is said even that they fly in small flocks, which are composed not only of their own species, but of other birds which have the same modes of life,

an ivy. Dr. Derham remarks that these birds breed every year on the firs before his house, at Upminster, in the county of Essex." *Willughby.*

such

such as the creepers, the nuthatches, and the titmice, &c. * On the other hand, Salerne informs us that, in Orleanois, they appear generally in pairs during the winter, and call upon each other when they are separated. It would seem, therefore, that they have different habits in different countries; which is not impossible, since habits depend on circumstances: but it is more likely that the authors have committed some oversight. In Switzerland, it is uncertain whether they continue through the winter: at least, in that country, and in England, they are the last to disappear†. In France, they are oftener seen in the autumn and winter than in the summer; and there are many provinces where they seldom or never breed.

These little birds are very agile and active: they are almost continually in motion, fluttering from branch to branch, creeping on the trees, and clinging indifferently in every situation, and often hanging by the feet, like the titmice; ferreting in all the cracks of the bark for their diminutive prey, or watching it as it creeps out. In cold weather they lodge in the evergreens, feeding on the seed; and often they perch on the summit of these trees: but in this

* Gesner, Klein, and Catesby.

† British Zoology.

habit they appear not to shun the presence of man, since, on other occasions, they suffer him to get very near them. In autumn they are fat, and their flesh is delicate: during that season they are commonly caught by means of the call. The public markets of Nuremberg are then well stocked with these little birds.

The gold-crested wrens are spread not only through Europe, from Sweden to Italy, and probably as far as Spain, but also to Bengal: and even in America they inhabit the extent between the Antilles and the north of New England, according to Edwards*. It appears therefore that these birds, which visit the northern countries indeed, but which fly to short distances, have migrated from the one continent to the other; and this well-ascertained fact is a proof of the proximity of the two continents in the high latitudes. If this be admitted, it would follow that the gold-crested wren, though apparently feeble and delicate, cannot only bear cold, but endure all the vicissitudes of temperature.

The most remarkable part of its plumage is

* It must have penetrated much farther, if it be really found in the *Terræ Magellanica*, as asserted in the *Navigations aux Terres Australes*, t. ii. p. 38. But we cannot infer that the bird here meant is the same with the gold-crested wren.

its beautiful aurora gold crown, bordered with black on each side, and which it conceals under the other feathers by the contraction of the muscles of the head: a white ray, which, passing over its eyes, joins the black edging of the crown, and another black streak, in which the eye is placed, give a more marked physiognomy: the rest of the upper side of the body, including the small coverts of the wings, is of an olive yellow: all the under side, from the base of the bill, is light rufous, verging to olive on the sides: the circumference of the bill is whitish, and projects some black bristles: the quills of the wings are brown, edged exteriorly with olive yellow: this border is interrupted, near the third of the quill, by a black spot on the sixth, and more or less on the following quills as far as the fifteenth: the middle coverts, and the great coverts next the body, are edged with olive yellow, and tipped with dirty white, which produces two spots of the same dirty white on each wing: the quills of the tail are dun gray, edged with olive: the ground colour of the feathers is blackish, except on the head, at the rise of the neck, and on the lower part of the thighs; the iris chesnut, and the legs yellowish. In the female the crest is of a pale yellow, and all the colours of the plumage are more dilute, as usual.

The Pennsylvanian gold-crested wren is distinguished from this only by slight shades, which are insufficient to constitute even a variety. The greatest difference lies in the colour of the legs, which are blackish.

Briffon says, that in the gold-crested wren, the first feather of each wing is extremely short: but this is not a quill, its shape is different, it is not inserted in the same manner, nor is it destined for the same use: it rises from the end of a sort of nail which terminates the bone of the wing; and a similar feather sprouts from another sort of nail, at the succeeding articulation*.

The gold-crested wren weighs from ninety-six to one hundred and twenty grains.—Total length three inches and a half; the bill five lines; it is black, the edges of the upper mandible are scalloped near the tip, and the lower mandible is a little shorter: each nostril is seated near the base of the bill, and covered by a single feather, which hangs over it with long stiff filaments; the *tarsus* seven lines and a half; the outer toe connected to the middle one by its two first *phalanxes*; the hind nail almost double the rest;

* We may extend this remark to many other species of birds, which have been said to have the first quill of the wing extremely short.

the alar extent six inches; the tail eighteen lines, consisting of twelve quills, of which the two intermediate and the two outer ones are shorter than the rest; so that the tail is divided into two equal parts, both tapered: the wings measure six lines: the body when plucked is not an inch long.

The tongue cartilaginous, terminated by small filaments; the *œsophagus* fifteen lines, dilating and forming a small glandulous sac before it is inserted into the gizzard: the gizzard is muscular, lined with an inadhesive membrane, and covered by the liver: the intestinal tube five inches: there is a gall bladder; no *cæcum*. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Gold-crested Wren, *Monticola-Regulus*: "Its secondary wing-quills yellow on their outer margin, white in the middle; its crest orange-yellow." It is pretty frequent in England, on the summits of lofty trees, particularly oaks. It lays from six to eight eggs, which are white, sprinkled with minute dull-red spots. "The gold-crested wren," says the accurate Mr. Pennant, "crosses annually from the Orknies to the Shetland isles; where it breeds, and returns again before winter; a long flight, of sixty miles, for so small a bird."

VARIETIES OF THE
GOLD-CRESTED WREN.

Motacilla-Calendula, Linn. & Gmel.

Sylvia-Calendula, Lath.

Calendula-Pennsylvanica, Briff.

I. THE RUBY-CROWNED WREN. I cannot help considering this Pennsylvanian bird as a variety in point of size of our gold-crested wren. In fact, its crest differs little either in shape or colour, being rounder indeed, and of a purer and deeper red, emulating the lustre of the ruby, and not edged with a black zone. Also the upper side of the body is olive, which is deeper on the fore parts, and lighter on the rump, without any mixture of yellow: there is a tint of yellow on the lower part of the body, and deeper on the breast. But the greatest difference consists in the size, it being larger and heavier than the common gold-crested wren in the proportion of eleven to eight. For the rest, the only difference consists in a few shades of the plumage: I speak of the dried specimens, for the habits and œconomy of the ruby-crowned wren are entirely unknown; and if ever these be discovered to be the same with those of our gold-crested wren, the identity of the species will be completely established.

In

In the ruby-crowned wrens, the crown is peculiar to the males, and not the least trace of it can be found on the head of the female. However, the plumage is nearly the same in both, and their weights are exactly equal.

Total length, four inches and a quarter; the bill, five lines and a half; the alar extent, six lines and a half; the *tarsus*, eight lines; the middle toe six; the tail eighteen, and consists of twelve quills; it exceeds the wings about half an inch.

To this variety we may refer the bird which Lebeau found in Louisiana, in which the back of the head bears a sort of crimson crown. The measures are indeed a little different, but insufficient to constitute a new variety, and the more so, as in other respects the birds are analogous, and inhabit the same climate.

Total length, four inches and a half; the bill six lines; the tail twenty-one lines, and exceeds the wings by eight or nine lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ruby-crowned Wren, *Motacilla-Calendula*: "It is cinereous-greenish, a line on its top very yellow; its belly and the under side of its wings yellowish." It occurs as high as Hudson's Bay.

II. THE RED-HEADED WREN. This bird was seen by Kolben at the Cape of Good Hope;

B b 4

Hope; and though that traveller has not described it completely, we may gather from his account that, first, it is a variety of *climate*, since it is peculiar to the southern extremity of Africa: secondly, it is a variety of *size*, since, according to Kolben, it is larger than our blue titmouse: thirdly, it is a variety of *plumage*, for its wings are black, and its legs reddish; in which respect it differs considerably from our gold-crested wren. •

III. This is the place which we ought to assign to the bird sent from Greenland to Muller, under the name of *the scarlet-crowned blue titmouse**, which is all he says of it.

* *Zoologia Dan. Prodromus*, No. 284. May not this be the *Audua Tytlingr* of the Icelanders?

THE
TITMOUSE-WREN.

Le Roitelet-Mefange, *Buff.*

Sylvia Elata, *Lath. Ind.*

THIS species, which is found in Cayenne, forms, by its short bill, the intermediate gradation between the gold-crested wren and the titmice. It is still smaller than the gold-crested wren : it inhabits a hot climate ; whereas that bird prefers the more temperate countries, and even appears only in winter. The titmouse-wren lodges in the bushes in the dry savannas, and consequently near dwellings. It has a jonquil crown on its head, but placed farther back than in the European bird ; the rest of the head is greenish brown ; the upper side of the body, and the two middle quills of its tail, greenish ; the lateral quills, the superior coverts of the wings, and their middle quills, brown edged with greenish, and the great ones brown, without any border ; the throat, and the fore part of the neck, light cinereous ; the breast and the belly greenish ; the lower belly, the

the inferior coverts of the tail, and the sides, dilute yellow.

Total length, three inches and a quarter; the bill four lines (it appears much shorter than that of the gold-crested wren); the *tarsus* six lines, and black; the hind nail the strongest of all; the tail fourteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings ten lines.

THE
T I T M I C E*.

Les Mefanges, *Buff.*

THOUGH Aldrovandus has restricted the word *parra* to the gold-crested wren, I conceive that Pliny employed it to signify in general the titmice, and that he regarded this genus as a branch of the family of woodpeckers, which he accounted more extensive than is admitted by the modern naturalists. My reasons are as follow:

1. Pliny says, that the woodpeckers are the only birds which breed in hollow trees†; and it is well known that many species of titmice do the same.

* In Greek the Titmouse is named *Αγριθαλος*, Arist. *Hist. Anim.* lib. viii. 3: in Latin, *Parra*; Plin. *Nat. Hist.* lib. x. 33: in modern Latin, *Parus*, *Parix*, *Mefanga*. In Italy it is called *Parula*; and in some districts *Parizola*, *Patafcio*, *Parruza*, *Zinzin*, *Orbefina*, *Sparuoczolo*: in Savoy, *Mayenche*: in Germany, *Mayfs*, *Meysliu*. The English *Tit-mouse* has the same derivation, and probably, as Ray conjectures, alludes to the bird's nestling in holes of walls like mice.

† *Pullos educant in cavis avium foli.* Lib. x. 18.

2. All

2. All that he says in regard to certain woodpeckers, that they climb the trees like cats, that they hang with their heads downward, that they seek their food beneath the bark, that they strike it with their bill, &c. agrees equally with the titmice and the woodpeckers*.

3. The account which he gives of other woodpeckers that suspend their nest from the end of young branches, to prevent any quadruped from approaching it †, will only suit some kinds of titmice, such as the penduline and the Languedoc, and not at all the woodpeckers properly so called.

4. We scarce can suppose, that Pliny never heard of the penduline and Languedoc titmice, since one of them at least breeds in Italy; and it is equally improbable that, being acquainted with this fact, he would omit to insert it in his Natural History. But the passage alluded to is the only one that applies to these birds; and they must therefore have been included in the family of woodpeckers.

* *Scandentes in subrectum felium modo; illi vero & supini percussi corticis sono, pabulum subesse intelligunt.* Plin. lib. x. 18.

† *Picorum aliquis suspendit in furculo (nidum) ut nullus accedere possit.* Lib. x. 33.

Moreover,

Moreover, the appellation of *parræ** seems to have been peculiarly bestowed on this branch of the woodpeckers; for in the genus of *parræ*, says Pliny, there are some which form their nest of dry moss into a ball, and shut it so closely that the aperture can scarce be found. This applies to the common wren, which has been sometimes confounded with the gold-crested wren and the titmice. There is another species which builds in the same manner, only employing hemp and flax for the materials; and this is the property of the long-tailed titmouse. Since the name *parræ* therefore comprehended many species, and the account of these agrees with the qualities of the titmice, it will follow that the genus is really that of the titmice. This idea is the more probable, as the epithet *argatilis*, which is given by Pliny to one of these species, is so like the Greek name *aigithalos*, which Aristotle applies to the titmice, that we cannot help regarding it the same, only somewhat altered in transcription. Besides, Pliny uses the word *aigithalos* in no other part, though he was well acquainted with Aristotle's works, and had consulted them expressly in composing his tenth book, which

* *In genere parrarum est, cui nidus ex musco arido ita absoluta perficitur pila, ut inveniri non possit aditus.* Plin. lib. x. 33. See Belon, p. 343.

treats of these birds. I may add, that the term *argatilis* has never, as far as I know, been applied by authors to any other bird but the one just mentioned, and there is every reason therefore to conclude that it is a titmouse.

The titmice have also been confounded with the bee-eaters, because they are both *apivorous*: they have been confounded too with the goat-suckers, on account of the resemblance of the Greek names *αιγιθαλος** and *αιγοθηλης*, though Gefner suspects they are distinct in their etymology: besides, the titmice have never been accused of milking the goats.

All the birds of this tribe appear feeble, because they are very small: but they are at the same time lively, active, and bold: they are perpetually in motion; they flutter from tree to tree; they hop from branch to branch; they creep along the bark; they climb the sides of walls; they suspend themselves in all situations, and often their head downwards, in order to dig in every little cranny, and pick out the worms, the insects, or their eggs. They also feed on seeds; but, instead of breaking these in their bill, like the linnets and the goldfinches,

* *Αιγιθαλος* is commonly reckoned a primitive word, and *αιγοθηλης* is compounded of *αιξ*, a goat, and *θηλη*, a nipple. T.

almost all the titmice hold them under their little claws and peck them: they also pierce hazel nuts and walnuts, &c.* If a nut be suspended at the end of a thread, they will cling to it, follow the oscillations, and without quitting their hold they will continue to peck it. It has been observed that the muscles of their neck are very strong, and those of the head thick†; which accounts in part for their manœuvres: their other motions imply great force in the muscles of the legs and toes.

Most of the European titmice occur in our climate at all seasons; but they are never so numerous as about the end of autumn; when those which live during the summer in the forests or on the mountains‡ are driven, by the cold and snows, from their retreat, and descend, in quest of food, into the cultivated plains, and near habitations||. During all the winter months,

* As this exercise is rather laborious, and, according to Frisch, brings on blindness, it is advised to break the nuts and hempseed, in short, every hard substance given to them.

† See *Journal de Physique—Août 1776*, p. 123, &c.

‡ The long-tailed titmouse, according to Aristotle; the ox-eye, the little blue, the black, and the crested titmice, according to the moderns.

|| Some pretend that they retire then into the fir-woods; others assert, that they only make transient visits to the snowy countries, and advance towards the south. The latter opinion seems to be the most probable.

and

and even in the beginning of the spring, they subsist on dry seeds and on fragments of insects which they find by ferreting the trees. They also crop the opening buds, and eat the caterpillar's eggs, particularly those which are seen round the small branches ranged like a series of rings, or the wreaths of a spiral. Lastly, they search in the fields for small dead birds, or such as are exhausted by disease, or entangled in snares, and, in short, all those incapable of resistance, though of their own species; they pierce their scull, and feed upon the brains. Nor is this cruelty palliated by want; for they are guilty of it even in voleries, where they are abundantly supplied. In summer they eat not only almonds, walnuts, insects, &c. but all sorts of nuts, chefnuts, beech-mast, figs, the seeds of hemp, of panic, and other small seeds*. It is observed that those bred in the cage are fond of blood, tainted meat, rancid fat, and tallow melted, or rather burnt, by the flame of a candle. It would seem that the state of domestication vitiates their taste.

In general, the titmice, though tainted with ferocity, love the society of their equals, and

* Some pretend that the titmice cannot digest the seeds of rape or of millet, though these be softened by boiling; yet M. de Querhoënt, who raised some of these birds, assures me that he fed them only with hempseed and millet.

unite in numerous flocks: if they are parted by any accident, they mutually call on each other, and soon re-assemble. However, they seem to shun an intimate connection*: judging no doubt of the dispositions of others by their own, they feel that they cannot confide much in them: such is the society of rogues. The unions which they annually form in the spring are of a closer nature, and are very productive. No genus of birds is so prolific as that of the titmice†, and it is the more remarkable the smaller they are. We might suppose that a greater proportion of organic matter enters into their structure, and from this exuberance of life results their fecundity, and also their activity, strength, and courage. No birds attack the owl with such intrepidity; they are ever the first to dart on the nocturnal foe, and they aim constantly at the eyes: their action is attended with a swell of the feathers, and with a rapid succession of violent attitudes and rapid movements, which powerfully mark the bitterness of their rage. When they are caught, they bite keenly the finger of the bird-catcher, strike furiously with their bill, and invite, by their

* *Journal de Physique*, Août 1776, p. 123, &c.

† So well known this fact is in England, that it is usual to call a little prolific woman a titmouse.

loud screams, the other birds of their species which also fall into the snare, and in their turn decoy others*. Lottinger affirms that, in the mountains of Lorraine, when the weather is foggy, forty or fifty dozens may be caught in a morning† with no apparatus but a call, a small tent, and a cleft stick. They may also be ensnared with various gins; with the trap‡, with the noose, with lime-twigs, or with a small lark-net: or they may be intoxicated, as the ancients practised, with meal soaked in wine§. Such are the numerous methods of destroying these small birds, and almost all of these are successfully employed. The reason is

* *Journal de Physique, Août 1776, p. 123.*

† According to Frisch, only an hundred are caught in a day by a sort of sport in the neighbourhood of Nuremberg. This is performed by means of a triangular lodge, fixed on three large firs that serve as columns; each face of this lodge has a sort of window, in which is set a trap, with its decoy bird. The bird-catcher himself keeps in the centre, and sounds a loud call. *Frisch*, t. 1. class 2. This author adds, that scarce any are caught in the traps but crested and long-tailed titmice.

‡ There are cage-traps, and those made with elder and two tiles laid one against another, with a head of corn between them; the hurdle, &c.

§ This paste occasions giddiness; they tumble, make efforts to fly, again fall over, and amuse the spectators by the strange variety of their motions and gestures. *Ælianus de Nat. Anim. lib. i. 58.*

that

that people who keep bees suffer much from the titmice, which make great havoc among these useful insects, especially when they have young*. Their extreme vivacity drives them into every kind of snare, especially on their arrival; for at that time they are very tame, they lodge in the bushes, and flutter about the roads, allowing one to get near them; but afterwards they gain some experience, and become rather more shy.

They lay about eighteen or twenty eggs†: some deposit these in the holes of trees, which they round and smooth with their bill, and fashion them internally into the proper form; others lay them in ball-shaped nests, which are of a magnitude very disproportioned to so small a bird. We might almost suppose that they previously reckon the number of the eggs, and that they anticipate the affection to their expected offspring. Hence the precautions used in constructing the nest; the solici-

* Others say, that winter is the time when these birds destroy the most, because the bees, being then less animated, are not so formidable with their stings, and are more easily caught.

† A female, says Hebert, that was caught on her eggs, had the skin of her belly so loose, that it would have covered the belly entirely, though the bird had been twice as large.

tude which some species discover in suspending it from the end of a branch, and the attention in selecting the proper materials, such as slender grass, small roots, moss, thread, hair, wool, cotton, feathers, down, &c. They are able to provide subsistence for their numerous family, which implies not only indefatigable activity, but much address and skill. They are often seen returning with caterpillars in their bill. If other birds attack their progeny, they will make an intrepid defence; will dart on the enemy; and courage renders their weakness formidable.

All the titmice have white spots round the eyes: the outer toe is joined, at its origin, to the middle toe, which is a very little longer than the hind toe: the tongue seems truncated and terminated by filaments: in almost all of them are thickly feathered on the rump: all, except the blue one, the head is black or marked with black; in all, except the long-tailed one, the legs are lead-coloured: but what more particularly characterises the birds of this family, is, that the bill is not awl-shaped, as some systematic writers assert, but formed like a short cone, a little flattened on the sides: it is stronger and shorter than that of the *fauvettes*, and often shaded by the feathers of the forehead, which

rise

rise and bend forward: their nostrils are covered with other smaller and fixed feathers; and their economy and habits are also similar.

It may be worth remarking, that the titmice bear some analogy to the ravens the magpies, and the shrikes, in regard to the comparative force of their bill and their little talons, in their mustachoes round the bill, in their appetite for flesh, in their manner of tearing their food into morsels before they eat; and even, it is said, in their cries, and in their mode of flying: but still we ought not to refer them to the same genus, as Kramer has done. We need only to compare these birds, to see them creeping on the trees, to examine their external shape and their proportions, and to reflect on their prodigious fecundity, and we shall be convinced that the titmice are widely different from the ravens. Besides, though the titmice fight among themselves, and sometimes devour each other, particularly certain species which discover a violent antipathy*; they sometimes live on good terms with one another, and even with

* Such are the ox-eye and the cinereous nun. See *Journal de Physique*, Août 1776. It is also said, that if several titmice be successively put in the same cage, the one first domesticated will attack the new comers, will domineer over them, and will endeavour to kill them and suck their brains.

birds of other species ; and we may assert that they are not radically so cruel as the shrikes, and only apt to be transported by momentary passion, in certain circumstances which are little known. I have witnessed a case, where, far from taking advantage of their strength, when no resistance could have been made, they shewed themselves susceptible of pity and affection. I put two young black titmice, taken from the nest, in a cage, where was a blue titmouse: she adopted them, and treated them with the tenderness of a mother; shared her food with them, and even was attentive to break the seeds mixed with it when too hard. I much doubt if a shrike would have treated them so kindly.

These birds are spread through the whole of the ancient continent, from Denmark and Sweden to the Cape of Good Hope, where Kolben saw six species, viz. the great titmouse; the marsh titmouse; the blue, the long-tailed, the black-headed titmice; and the gold-crested wren, which he took for a titmouse. "All these kinds sing pleasantly," says this traveller, "and like Canary finches, with which they mix to form magnificent savage concerts *." Our bird-fanciers

* I own that I lay little stress on this observation, in which Kolben, instead of relating what he saw, seems to copy what he read in naturalists, only taking the liberty to assert that
the

ciers pretend that those of Europe also sing well; but this must be understood of their vernal song, which is the music of love, and not of the disagreeable harsh cry which they retain throughout the year, and which has procured them, it is said, the name of *locksmith**. These connoisseurs add, that they can be taught to whistle airs: that the young ones, which are caught after they are partly grown, succeed better than those fed artificially†: that they soon grow tame, and begin to sing in the course of ten or twelve days: lastly, that they are very subject to the cramp, and ought to be kept warm during winter.

Almost all the titmice, whether they enjoy the state of liberty, or be confined in a volery, form deposits for their provisions. The Viscount Querhoënt observed several, whose wings he had clipped, take in their bill three or four

the titmice sing like canaries, while these authors compare their song rather to that of the chaffinches.

* I do not agree with authors on this point; for the name of *locksmith* (*ferrurier*) has been given to the woodpeckers, not because of their cry, but on account of the grating noise made by striking the trees with their bill. It seems to me more probable that, as the titmice have the same habit, they have, for a like reason, received the same name.

† *Traité du Serin*, p. 51. Every body agrees that the young titmice, taken from the nest, are difficult to raise.

feeds of panic, and a feed of hemp*, and scramble with remarkable agility to the top of the tapestry, where they had placed their magazine. But it is obvious, that this instinct of storing proceeds from avarice, and not foresight; at least in the case of those which usually spend the summer in the mountains, and subsist during winter in the plains. It has also been observed, that they constantly seek the darkest spots in which to repose: they would even seem to strive in hollowing out recesses in the boards or the wall; and these attempts are always at a certain height; for they seldom rest on the ground, and never remain long at the bottom of the cage. Hebert took notice of some species which passed the night in hollow trees: he perceived them several times dart briskly into their lodgment, after they had previously glanced round, and, as it were, examined the ground: he tried to drive them out by pushing a stick into the same hole by which they entered, but without effect. He supposes that they return every day to the same roost; which is the more probable, since this also contains their little store of provisions. These birds sleep soundly, with their head concealed be-

* Frisch says nearly the same thing of the cinereous nun, or marsh titmouse.

neath their wings, as others. Their flesh is in general lean, bitter, and dry, and consequently very bad food : however, there are some exceptions*.

The largest of all the titmice are, among the European kinds, the great and bearded titmice; and among the foreign kinds, the blue titmouse of India, and the Toupet titmouse of Carolina : each of these weighs near an ounce. The smallest of all are the black-headed titmouse, the long-tailed titmouse, the marsh titmouse, the penduline titmouse, and the crested Carolina titmouse; which exceed not two or three gros.

We shall begin the particular history of the different species, with those of Europe, attending to the characteristic properties of each ; and we shall then treat of the foreign kinds. We shall compare these with the European, and mark the analogies that occur ; and we shall exclude such as have been inaccurately referred to the genus.

* Gefner says, that they are eaten in Switzerland ; but he adds, that they are by no means pleasant food.—Schwenckfeld alone asserts, that their flesh is neither dry, nor ill-tasted, in autumn and in winter.

T H E
G R E A T T I T M O U S E,
O R
O X - E Y E.

La Charbonniere, ou Grosse Mefange, *Buff.*
Parus Major, *All the Naturalists* *.

I KNOW not what induced Belon to assert that “this species does not hang so much from the branches as the others;” for I had occasion to observe one which continually suspended itself from the bars of the upper part of its cage; and, happening to sicken, it still clung to these with its head turned downwards, and continued in this pendent situation during the whole of its illness, and even after its death.

* In Italian, *Parifola Domestica*; in Rome, *Spernuzzola*; in Lombardy, *Paruffola*; in Bologna, *Poligola*; in Tuscany, *Cincinpotola*; in German, *Spiegel-meifs* (mirror titmouse), *Brandt-meifs* (fire titmouse), *Kohlmeifs* (coal titmouse); in Dutch, *Coelmaes*; in Swedish, *Talg-Oxe*; in Danish, *Musvit*; in Norwegian, *Kiod-meife*. In different parts of France it is called *Nonnette*, *Moinoton*, *Moineau de Bois*, *Mefange Brûlée*, *Creve Chaffis*; which names refer to its dark colour, and its habit of making holes.

I have

I have also learned from experience, that the ox-eye kept in the cage sometimes cleaves the skull of the young birds that are presented to it, and feeds greedily on the brain. Hebert ascertained nearly the same fact by an experiment which he made : he put a red-breast in the same cage with eight or ten ox-eyes, about nine in the morning ; and against mid-day the skull of the red-breast was bored, and the brain entirely eaten. On the other hand, I have seen many ox-eyes, and other titmice, which had been caught by means of the call, that lived above a year in the same volery, without any act of hostility: and, at this very moment, there is an ox-eye which has lived six months on good terms with goldfinches and fiskins; though one of the fiskins was sick during that period, and, in its feeble state, incapable of resistance, offered an easy prey to voracity.

The great titmouse inhabits the mountains and the valleys, among the bushes and the copses, in the vineyards and the forests : but M. Lottinger assures me that they prefer the mountains. The ordinary cry of the male, which it retains through the whole year, and which is most frequent in the evening preceding rain, resembles the grating of a file, or the grinding of a bolt ; and hence, it is said, the appellation of *locksmith*. In spring, however, it assumes another

ther modulation, and becomes so pleasant and varied, that we could hardly suppose it to proceed from the same bird. Frisch, Guys, and several others compare it with that of the finch*; and hence perhaps the reason of the name *finch titmouse*, which has been given to this species. Olinia allows that the ox-eye excels all the other titmice in singing, and as a call bird. It is easily tamed, and grows so familiar as to eat out of the hand: it is dexterous at the little trick of drawing up the pail, and it even lays while in captivity.

When these birds enjoy their natural freedom, they begin to pair about the first of February: they make their nest in the hole of a tree, or wall†: but they consort a long time before they construct it, and they select the softest

* This bird is kept in the cage in certain countries, says Aldrovandus, for the sake of the pleasant warble which it has the whole year. On the other hand, Turner says, that its vernal song is not agreeable, and that the rest of the year it is mute. According to some, it seems to sound *titigu, titigu, titigu*, and in the spring *stiti, stiti*, &c. In general, authors often erect their local observations into universal axioms; and sometimes they barely repeat what they have heard from persons little informed: and hence the contradictions.

† Particularly in the walls of lone houses, near forests: for instance, those of charcoal makers (*charbonniers*); whence, according to some, the titmouse has the name of *charbanniere*.

and

and the most downy materials. They commonly have eight, ten, or even twelve eggs, with rufous spots, chiefly at the large end. The period of incubation exceeds not twelve days: the young brood continue several days blind: they are soon covered with a thin slender down, which adheres to the end of the feathers, and drops off as these grow. They fly in the space of fifteen days; and it has been observed that their growth is more rapid in rainy seasons. After they have once quitted the nests, they return no more, but perch on the neighbouring trees, and incessantly call on each other*: they continue thus in a body, till the approach of spring invites them to pair. The nestlings are found till the end of June, which shews that the ox-eyes have several hatches. Some say that they have three: but is it not when they are disturbed in the first hatch that they begin a second, &c.? Before the first moulting the male may be distinguished, since he is larger, and of a hotter temper. In the space of six months the young are all full grown, and four months after moulting they are fit for breeding. According to Olina, these

* It is perhaps an effect of this early habit, that the titmice run so nimbly when they hear the voice of their fellows.

birds live only five years; and others mention that age as the time when they begin to be afflicted with defluxion of the eyes, the cramp, &c. But they lose their activity without losing the harshness of their character, which is aggravated by their infirmities*. Linnæus says, that in Sweden they lodge on alders, and that in summer they are very common in Spain.

The great titmouse has on its head a sort of cowl of a bright glossy black, which before and behind descends to the middle of the neck, and has on each side a large white spot almost triangular: below this cowl rises before a long narrow black bar, which extends across the middle of the breast and belly to the extremity of the inferior coverts of the tail: these are white, and also those of the lower belly: the rest of the under surface of the body, as far as the black on the throat, is of a light yellow: an olive green prevails on the upper side of the body, but becomes yellow, and even white, as it approaches the lower edge of the cowl: it grows duskier, on the contrary, at the opposite side, and changes into a blue ash colour on the rump and the superior coverts of the tail: the two first quills of the wing are of a brown cinereous, without edgings: the rest of the great quills

* *Journal de Physique, Août 1776.*

are bordered with blue ash, and the middle ones with olive green, which assumes a yellow tinge on the four last: the wings have a transverse ray of yellowish white: all that appears of the quills of the tail is blueish cinereous, except the outermost, which is edged with white, and the next, which is tipped with the same colour: the ground of the black feathers is black, and of the white ones white: that of the yellow ones is blackish, and that of the olive ones cinereous. The bird weighs about an ounce.

Total length six inches; the bill six lines and an half; the two mandibles equal; the upper one has no scalloping: the *tarsus* nine lines; the hind nail the strongest; the alar extent eight inches and an half; the tail two inches and an half, somewhat forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeds the wings eighteen lines.

The tongue is not fixed and immoveable, as some have supposed*: the bird can push it forward and raise it parallel to itself, with a moderate declination to the right and left; and consequently it is susceptible of all the motions that can be compounded of these three: it is truncated at the end, and terminated with three

* *Journal de Physique*, Août 1776.

or four filaments. Frisch supposes, that the great titmouse uses these to taste its food before eating.

The *œsophagus* two inches and an half, forming a small glandulous sac before its insertion into the gizzard, which is muscular, and lined with a wrinkled inadhesive membrane. I found in it small black seeds, but not a single pebble: the intestines six inches four lines; two vestiges of a *cæcum*; a gall bladder. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ox-eye, *Parus Major*: "Its head black, its temples white, its nape yellow." A variety of this bird was killed at Feversham in Kent: its colours were in general more obscure, its bill was very long, and its mandibles bent at the tips. The ox-eye occurs in the northern extremities of Europe, of Asia, and even of America: it is a permanent settler. Its egg is white, with numerous rufous spots.

B  L

N^o 131



THE COLEMOUSE.

THE
COLEMOUSE*.

LA PETITE CHARBONNIERE.

Parus Ater, Linn. Gmel. Kram. Fris. Ray & Will.

Parus atricapillus, Briss.

Parus Sylvaticus, Klein.

Parus Carbonarius, Barrere.

THE name of black-head (*atricapilla*, *μελαγκορυφος*) has been applied to several birds, such as the black-cap, the bulfinch, &c. But the black-head of Aristotle appears to be a titmouse; since, according to him, it lays seventeen, or even twenty-one eggs, and has besides all the properties of the titmice; such as nestling in trees, feeding on insects, having a truncated tongue, &c. What this author adds from report, and which Pliny confidently repeats, that the eggs are always odd, is founded on the notion of certain mysterious properties of numbers, especially of the odd ones, which have ever been supposed to influence the phenomena of nature.

* In Italian, *Cingallegra*: In German, *Tannenmeise*, *Kleine Kohlmeise*, *Hunds-meise*; in Polish, *Sikora Czarna Mnicyssa*.

The colemouse differs from the ox-eye, not only in regard to size, being no more than the third or fourth of the weight, but also by the colours of its plumage; as will appear by comparing the descriptions. Frisch says, that in Germany it inhabits the pine forests; but in Sweden it prefers the alders, according to Linnæus. It is the least timorous of all the titmice: not only the young ones flock to the voice of another titmouse, and are decoyed by means of the call; even the adults, which have been caught several times and have fortunately escaped, are as easily ensnared again in the same gins. However, these birds discover as much or even more sagacity in many actions which concern their own preservation, or that of their brood; and perhaps the courage which they possess extinguishes alike mistrust and fear.

The colemouse lives in the woods, especially those which contain firs and other evergreen trees, in vineyards, and gardens: it creeps and runs on the trees like the other titmice. Next to the long-tailed one, it is the smallest of all; it weighs only two gros: it has a sort of black cowl, terminated with white on the back of the head, and marked below the eyes with the same colour: the upper side of the head is cinereous,

neraceous, the under dirty white: there are two transverse white spots on the wings; the quills of the tail and of the wings, brown ash colour, edged with gray: the bill black, and the legs lead-coloured.

Total length, four inches and a quarter; the bill, four lines and two-thirds; the *tarsus*, seven lines; the hind nail is the strongest; the lateral ones are proportionally longer than in the ox-eye: the alar extent, six inches and three quarters; the tail, twenty lines, and rather forked, consisting of twelve quills; it exceeds the wings ten lines.

Möehring has observed that, in this species, the end of the tongue is truncated only at the edges, from each of which a filament projects, and that the intermediate space is entire, and rises almost perpendicular. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Colemouse, or Coalmouse, *Parus Ater*: "Its head black, its back cinereous, the back of the head and the breast white." It inhabits as far north as Siberia, where it continues even through the winter: its egg is whitish, with small reddish spots.

VARIETIES OF THE COLEMOUSE.

I.

THE MARSH TITMOUSE, OR BLACKCAP.

La Nonnette Cendrée, *Buff.*

Parus Palustris, *Linn. Gmel. Briss. &c.* *

I KNOW that many naturalists regard this bird as distinguished from the preceding by considerable differences. Willughby says that it is larger, its tail longer, and that it has less black under its throat; that the white of the lower side of its body is purer, and that it has no white on the back of the head, or on the wings. But if we consider that most of these distinctions are not permanent, particularly the spot on the back of the head †, though it is reckoned among the specific characters of the colemouse; if we consider that the same name (*charbonniere*) *collier* has been applied to both, and the epithet of *marsh*, which is commonly

* In Italian, *Parolozino Palustre*: in German, *Gartenmeise* (garden-titmouse), *Bien-Meise* (bee-titmouse): in Swedish, *En-Tita Tomlinge*: in Polish, *Sikora Popielata*.

† A colemouse observed by the authors of the British Zoology wanted this spot; and M. Lottinger assures me, that if the marsh titmouse had this spot on the back of the head it would differ not from the colemouse.

bestowed

bestowed on the blackcap, would also suit the preceding species, since, according to Linnæus, it lodges in alders, which grow in wet situations: lastly, if we consider the numerous points of analogy that subsist between the two species, their haunts, their size, their breadth, the sameness of their colours, and their nearly similar distribution, we shall be convinced that it is only a variety of the colemouse*.

The marsh titmouse lives more in the woods than in the vineyards and gardens, feeding on small seeds, preying on wasps, bees and grasshoppers, and forming stores of hemp seeds, when there is occasion, carrying several at once in its bill to place in the deposit, and consuming them afterwards at leisure. Its manner of eating undoubtedly gives it this foresight: it requires time and a convenient place to pierce each seed with its bill; and if it had not collected provisions, it would often be reduced to want.

The marsh titmouse is found in Sweden, and even in Norway, in the forests which skirt the Danube, in Lorraine, in Italy, &c. Salerne says that it is unknown in the Orleanois, in the neighbourhood of Paris, and in Normandy. It is fond of lodging among the alders, the fallows, and of haunting wet spots. It is a solitary bird, which continues in the country

through the whole year; it can hardly be bred in the cage. A nest was brought to me which was found in a hollow apple-tree in the midst of a little clump, not far from a river; it consisted of a little moss laid in the bottom of the hole. The young ones, which were already able to fly, were rather browner than the parent, but their legs were of a lighter lead colour; no scaloping on the edges of the bill, of which the two mandibles were very equal. What was remarkable, the gizzard of the young ones was larger than that of the adults in the ratio of five to three; the intestinal tube was also proportionally longer; but neither of them had a gall bladder or the least vestige of a *cæcum*. I found in the gizzard of the parent some fragments of insects and a grain of dry earth, and in that of the young ones several little pebbles.

The marsh titmouse is rather larger than the colemouse, for it weighs three gros. I need not describe its plumage; it will be sufficient to mark the chief differences.

Total length, four inches and one third; the bill, four lines; the *tarsus*, seven lines; the alar extent, seven inches; the tail two inches, consisting of twelve quills, and projects twelve lines beyond the wings. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Marsh Titmouse, *Parus Palustris*: "Its head black, its back cinereous, its temples white."

M. Le

M. Le Beau brought from Louisiana a titmouse, which resembles much the present; only it wants the white on the back of the head, and the two streaks of the same colour on the wings; also the black mark on the throat was larger, and in general the colours of the plumage rather deeper, except that in the female the head was of a rusty gray, nearly like the upper side of the body, but still darker.

Total length, four inches and a half; the *tarsus*, seven or eight lines; the hind nail the strongest; the tail twenty-one lines, rather tapered (which is another distinctive character), and exceeding the wings about nine lines.

II.

THE CANADA-TITMOUSE.

Parus atricapillus, Linn. & Gmel.

Parus canadensis atricapillus, Briss.

THE black-headed titmouse of Canada bears a great resemblance to the colemouse: it has nearly the same proportions and the same plumage; the head and throat black; the under side of the body white; the upper side dark

D d 4

cine-

cinereous, which, towards the rump, grows more dilute, and, on the superior coverts of the tail, runs into a dirty white: the two intermediate quills of the tail are cinereous, like the back; the lateral ones also cinereous, but edged with white gray; those of the wings brown, edged with the same white gray; their great superior coverts brown, edged with gray; the bill black, and the legs blackish.

Total length, four inches and a half; the bill, five lines; the *tarsus*, seven lines and a half; the alar extent, seven inches and a half; the tail, twenty-six lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings an inch.

Since the titmice frequent the northern countries, it is not strange that we should find in America varieties of the European species. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Parus Atricapillus*: "Its cap and throat are black; its body cinereous, below white."

III.

IF the white-throat of Willughby be not a fauvette (*spipola*), as he supposes, but a titmouse, as Brisson reckons it*; I should range

* *Parus Cinereus*, *Brisson*.

it with the marsh titmouse, and consequently with the colemouse. Its head is deep cinereous; all the upper side of the body rusty cinereous; the under side white, tinged with red in the male, except the origin of the neck, which in some subjects is pure white, and in others has a cinereous tinge, as well as the fore side of the neck and breast: the first quill of the wing is edged with white, the last ones with rufous; the quills of the tail black, edged with lighter colour, except the outermost, which is white, though not in all subjects: the bill is black, yellow internally; the lower mandible whitish in some subjects; the legs sometimes yellowish brown, and sometimes lead coloured.

The white-throat is found in England during the summer: it visits the gardens, lives on insects, makes its nest in the bushes near the ground (and not in the holes of trees like the titmice), and lines it with hair: it lays five eggs dotted with black, on a greenish light brown ground. It is nearly as large as the marsh titmouse.

Total length, from five inches and three quarters to six inches; the hind toe the strongest; the two lateral ones equal, exceedingly small, and connected to the mid one, the outer
by

by its first phalanx, the inner by a membrane, which is uncommon in birds of this kind; the alar extent, eight inches; the tail two inches and a half, consisting of twelve quills, rather tapered; it exceeds the wings sixteen or seventeen lines*.

IV.

I HAVE at present before me a bird which the Marquis de Piolenc sent from Savoy under the name of *creeper*, but which must be referred to the same species. Its head is variegated with black and cinereous gray; all the rest of the upper part, including the two middle quills of the tail, of the same gray; the outer quill blackish at the base, gray at the end, and crossed near its middle by a white spot; the next quill marked with the same colour, but on its inside only; the third in the same way, but nearer the end,

* I have seen in cabinets a bird, whose plumage resembled remarkably that of this titmouse, but which differed by its proportions. Its total length was five inches and a half; its *tarsus*, ten lines; its tail, twenty-nine lines, exceeding the wings only by an inch: but the most remarkable circumstance that discriminated it was its bill, seven lines long, and three lines thick at the base.

so that the white always contracts, and the black extends so much farther: it gains still more in the fourth and fifth quill, which have no white at all, but are tipped with ash-gray, as in the preceding: the quills of the wings are blackish; the middle ones bordered with ash-gray; the great ones with dirty gray: each wing has a longitudinal, or rather a yellowish white streak: the throat is white, and also the anterior margin of the wing; the fore part of the neck and all the lower part light rufous: the inferior coverts of the wings, the nearest the body, are rusty, the succeeding black, and the longest white: the upper mandible is black, except the ridge, which is whitish, and so is the lower mandible: lastly, the legs are yellowish brown.

Total length, five inches one third; the bill, six lines and a half; the *tarsus*, eight lines; the hind toe as long and thicker than the mid one, and its nail the strongest; the alar extent, seven inches and three quarters; the tail eighteen lines, consisting of twelve quills, rather unequal, and shorter in the middle; it exceeds the wings ten lines.

THE BLUE TITMOUSE.

LA MESANGE BLEUE.

Parus Cæruleus, Linn. Gmel. & Briff. &c.

The Nun, Charleton.*

FEW birds are so well known as this; because few are so common, so easily caught, or so distinguished by the colours of their plumage. Blue predominates on the upper side, yellow on the lower; and a nice distribution of black and white discriminates and heightens the different hues, which are also diversified by a variety of different shades. The blue titmouse is the better known on account of its pernicious visits to our gardens, where it plucks the blossoms from the fruit-trees: it even dexterously employs its little claws to detach the ripe fruit from the branch, which it afterwards carries to its deposit. But it does not subsist wholly in this way; it has the same

* In Italian, *Paro-zolino, Fratino*: in Spanish, *Milchiero*: in Portuguese, *Chamaris Alionine*: in German, *Blau-meise* (blue titmouse), *Meel-meise* (meal titmouse): in Swedish, *Blao-mees*: in Norwegian and Danish, *Blaa-meise*: in Polish, *Sikora Modra*.

propensity to flesh with other titmice, and it picks so clean the bodies of the little birds which it masters, that Klein proposes to employ it for preparing their skeletons*. It also distinguishes itself above all the rest by its rancour against the owl. The Viscount de Querhoënt observes, that it does not always split the seeds of hemp like the other titmice, but bruises them in its bill, like the canaries and linnets: he adds, that it shews more foresight than the rest, since it selects for its winter haunt a warmer site, and one of more difficult access; commonly a hollow tree, or the crevice of a wall.

The female also builds in holes, and is not sparing of feathers; she lays in the month of April a great many small white eggs: I have counted from eight to seventeen in the same nest; others have found even twenty-one. I am assured that there is only one hatch, unless the incubation is disturbed: a single egg broken, or even handled, will occasion the whole to be forsaken. But after the young are excluded, the mother discovers a strong attachment, and defends them with courage; she is inflamed, and whistles a

* He advises us previously to remove most of the flesh and the brain of the bird, whose skeleton we want to have prepared.

threatening air when disturbed in her prison. The cock seems to repose more at ease, and oftenest clung to the top of the cage. Besides the disagreeable grinding, it has a slender but varied chirp, which has been supposed to bear some resemblance to that of the chaffinch.

Frisch alleges that the blue titmouse will not live in the cage, and cannot therefore be used as a call-bird. I have seen some, however, that were kept many months in confinement, and died only of excessive fat.

Schwenckfeld tells us, that in Silesia this titmouse is found at all seasons on the mountains. With us, it prefers the woods, especially in summer, and next to these the vineyards, the gardens, &c. Lottinger says, that it travels in company with the ox-eye; but the society between petulant and cruel animals must be turbulent and temporary. It is said that its young continue longer together than that of the other species*.

The blue titmouse is very little, since it weighs only three gros; but Belon, Klein, and the traveller Kolben, ought not to have represented it as the smallest of the titmice. The hen is rather smaller than the cock, and has less

* *Journal de Physique*, Août 1776.

blue on the head; and this blue, as well as the yellow of the under side of the body, is not so bright: what is white in the parents, is only yellowish in the new-fledged brood: what is blue in the former, is ash brown in the latter; but their wing quills are proportionally as large as those of the adults.

Total length, four inches and a half; the bill, four lines and a half; the two mandibles equal, and without any indenting; the tongue truncated, terminated with filaments, some of which are commonly broken; the *tarsus*, six lines and a half; the legs are exceedingly thick, the hind nail the strongest; the alar extent, seven inches; the tail twenty-five lines, and projecting twelve beyond the wings; each of its halves is tapered, and composed of six quills. The young ones, of which I dissected a pretty large number in May, had all of them rather a smaller gizzard than that of their dam, but a longer intestinal canal. There were two slight vestiges of *caca*, and no gall bladder. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Blue Titmouse, *Parus Caruleus*: "Its wing quills are blueish; the first white at their outer margin, the front white, the top blue."

THE
BEARDED TITMOUSE.

LA MOUSTACHE.

Parus Biarmicus, *Linn. Gmel. & Fris.*

Parus Barbatus, *Briss. & Klein.*

Lanius Biarmicus, *Brun.*

Pendulus, *Kram.*

The Least Butcher-bird, *Edw.**

I CANNOT be positive whether this bird is really found in India, as Frisch seems to hint; but it appears to be very common in Denmark, and is now spreading through England. Edwards mentions several cocks and hens that were killed in the neighbourhood of London, and so little known that they had no name. The Countess of Albemarle brought a cage full of them from Denmark †; and some of these doubtless escaped, and founded a colony in England. But whence came those which

* In German, *Spitz-bartiger* (bearded sparrow).

† Since they are so common in Denmark, I am surprised that the name occurs not in Muller's *Prodromus Zoologiae Danicae*.

N^o 132



FIG. 1. THE MALE BEARDED TITMOUSE FIG. 2. THE FEMALE.

B  L

Albin says were reported to inhabit the counties of Essex and Lincoln, and always among the fens?

It is to be wished that the habits of these birds were better known. Their history would be curious, if we may judge from what is related, that when they rest the male spreads his wings over his mate; and this attention, were it well authenticated, must imply many other interesting particulars with regard to incubation.

The most characteristic feature of the male is a black mark, very nearly triangular, on each side of the head: the base of this inverted triangle rises a little above the eyes, and its vertex is turned downwards, and falls on the neck nine or ten lines from the base: these two black marks, which have pretty long feathers, bear some resemblance to whiskers, and hence the names of the bird in different countries. Frisch supposes that it is analogous to the canary, and that the two species would intermix; but adds, that the bearded titmice are too rare for making the necessary experiments. This opinion of Frisch is inconsistent with that of Edwards and Linnæus, who suppose it to resemble the shrike. But though these views be opposite, they agree in one circumstance, that the bill of the bearded titmouse is larger than ordinary.

dinary in titmice. On the other hand, Lottin-ger affirms that it breeds in the holes of trees, and often consorts with the long-tailed titmouse; which, joined to the family likeness and other resemblances in size, exterior figure, mien, and habits, rank it with the titmice.

The head of the male is pearl gray; the throat, and the fore part of the neck, of a silvery white; the breast of a sullied white tinged with gray in some subjects, and rose-colour in others; the rest of the under side of the body rusty; the inferior coverts of the tail black; those of the wings yellowish white; the upper side of the body light rufous; the anterior edge of the wings white; the small superior coverts blackish; the great ones edged with rufous, the middle ones with the same, edged interiorly with lighter rufous; the great quills edged with white externally; those of the tail entirely rufous, except the outermost, which is blackish at the base, and of a rufous ash colour near its extremity; the iris orange; the bill yellowish and the legs brown.

In the female there is no red tinge under the body, nor black marks on the sides of the head which is brown, and also the inferior coverts of the tail, of which the lateral quills are blackish tipped with white. The female is also rather smaller than the male.

Total length of the last, six inches and a quarter; the bill, less than six lines; the upper mandible a little hooked, but without any indenting, according to Edwards himself, which is very different from a shrike; the *tarsus*, eight lines and a half; the alar extent, six inches and a half; the tail thirty-six lines, consisting of twelve tapered quills, so that the two exterior ones are only half as long as the two middle ones; it exceeds the wings twenty-seven lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Bearded Titmouse, *Parus Biarmicus*: "Its head hoary, its tail longer than its body, its head bearded."

T H E
P E N D U L I N E T I T M O U S E .

Le Remiz, *Buff.*

Parus Pendulinus, *Linn. Gmel. Georg. Borowsk.*

Parus Polonicus, five Pendulinus, *Briss.*

Parus Lithuanicus, *Klein.*

The Mountain Titmouse, *Alb. **

EDWARDS suspects this bird, which is figured in the work of Albin, to be the same with the bearded titmouse; but this idea seems contradicted by several circumstances: 1. The figures referred to, though accurate, differ considerably. 2. According to Albin, the bearded titmouse weighs more than nine gros, and he represents the mountain titmouse as equal to the

* In Italian, *Pendolino*: in German, *Weiden-meise* (willow titmouse), *Robr-spatz* (reed sparrow), *Persianischer-spatz*, *Turquisber-spatz*: in Polish, *Remez*, *Remis*, *Remiz*, *Remizawy*, *Ptak*, *Remicz*, *Remits'ch*, *Remisch*, *Romisch*: in Russian, *Remessof*: in Hungarian, *Maundicek*.

The name *Picus nidum suspendens* (hang-nest woodpecker), which Aldrovandus gives from Pliny, would agree much better with the penduline titmouse, or remiz. Some have reckoned a land remiz, and a water remiz; but the latter is probably the reed-bunting. Lastly, the anonymous author of a Memoir inserted in the *Journal de Physique* for August 1776, gives the remiz the name of *marsh titmouse*.

blue

blue titmouse, which is only three gros. 3. The plumage is different ; and particularly the black bar on the side of the head has a very different position in each. 4. The climate also differs : for Albin makes some of the counties in England the ordinary haunt of the bearded titmouse ; but regards the penduline titmouse as an inhabitant of Germany and Italy. Nor do Kramer and Linnæus appear to judge better in considering these two birds as distinguished only by their sex ; and I cannot, with Edwards and Linnæus, perceive any strong resemblance between these and the shrikes. It is true that the shrikes have a black stripe on the eyes, and that the penduline titmouse interweaves its nest ; but the materials are different, and also the manner of fastening the nest, the shape of the bill, the claws, the food, the size, proportions, strength, gesture, &c. It would seem that neither Edwards, nor any of the naturalists who have adopted his opinion, had ever seen this bird.

The most curious fact in the history of these birds is the exquisite art displayed in the construction of their nest. They employ the light down found on the buds of the willow, the poplar, the aspen, the juncago ; in thistles, dandelions, flea-banes, cats' tails, &c. With their

E e 3

bill

bill they entwine this filamentous substance, and form a thick close web, almost like cloth: this they fortify externally with fibres and small roots, which penetrate into the texture, and in some measure form the basis of the nest. They line the inside with the same down, but not woven, that their young may lie soft*: they shut it above to confine the warmth, and they suspend it with hemp, with nettles, &c. from the cleft of a small pliant branch, over running water, that it may rock more gently, assisted by the spring of the branch. In this situation the brood are well supplied with insects, which constitute their chief food†; and they are protected from the rats, the lizards, the adders, and other reptiles, which are always the most dangerous: and I am convinced that their conduct really proceeds from foresight; for they are naturally crafty, and, according to Monti and Titius‡, they can never be caught in snares; as the same circumstance has been remarked in the bonanas

* Sometimes the down, or cotton-like substance, is rolled into little pellets, which make the inside of the nest neither so soft nor so pleasant.

† M. Monti found in the stomach of these birds insects almost digested, and nothing else.

‡ They are sometimes, adds Titius, surprised in the nest at sun-set, or in dark misty weather.

and

and cassiques of the New World, in the grosbeaks of Abyssinia, and in other birds which hang their nests from the end of a branch. That of the penduline titmouse resembles sometimes a bag, sometimes a shut purse, sometimes a flattened bagpipe, &c.* The aperture is made in the side, and almost always turned towards the water, and placed sometimes higher, sometimes lower: it is nearly round, and only an inch and an half in diameter, or even less, and com-

* Cajetan Monti has caused one to be engraved, and Daniel Titius two. These three nests differ not only from each other, but from that figured by Bonanni, both in size and form. The largest of all (Titius, *pl.* 2.) was seven inches long, and four and an half wide: it was suspended at the fork of a small branch with hemp and flax. The least (*pl.* 1.) was five inches and an half long, of the same breadth at its upper part, and terminating in an obtuse point: this, according to Titius, is the usual form. That of Monti was pointed above and below. Titius suspects that the penduline titmice only make a rude essay in constructing their first nest, and that the sides are then thin, and the texture quite loose; but that they improve at each subsequent hatch; and, as their mistrust grows upon them, they add firmer coats on the outside, and softer ones within: hence the differences observed in the form and bulk of these nests. About the end of December 1691, near Breslaw, was found a female fiskin in one of these same nests, with a young one, and three eggs not yet hatched. This proves that the nests of the penduline titmice subsist from one year to another. Titius adds, that we need not wonder to see the fiskin hatching in winter, since the cross-bills do the same.

monly furrounded by a brim more or less protuberant * ; though this is sometimes wanting. The female lays only four or five eggs, which falls much short of the ordinary fecundity of the titmice ; but in its port, its voice, its bill, and in the principal attributes, the penduline resembles the others. These eggs are as white as snow, the shell extremely thin, and they are almost transparent. The bird has generally two hatches annually ; the first in April or May, and the second in the month of August. There is little probability that it makes a third.

These nests of the penduline titmouse are seen in the fens near Bologna, in those of Tuscany, on the lake Thrasymene, and are exactly

* Aldrovandus has given a figure of this nest, which he imagined to be the long-tailed titmouse, though he well knew that the bird was called *pendulino*. *Ornithol. t. iii. p. 718*. Two of these nests seem glued together, and remind us of what Rzaczynski says of the nests with double apertures, found in Pokutia, on the banks of the Bystrizza. An anonymous author of a Memoir in the *Journal de Physique* for August 1776, goes farther than Aldrovandus, and, after having compared the penduline and long-tailed titmouse, observes a great analogy between the two birds. Yet had he followed the method of comparison exactly, he would have perceived that the penduline titmouse has its bill and legs proportionally longer, its tail shorter, its alarm extent also, and its plumage different.

the same with what occur in Lithuania, Volhinia, Poland, and Germany. The peasants regard them with superstitious veneration: one of these nests is suspended near the door of each cottage, and the possessors hold it as a protector from thunder, and its little architect as a sacred bird. We might almost regret that nature is not more sparing of her wonders: for every extraordinary appearance is a source of new errors.

These titmice inhabit likewise Bohemia, Silesia, the Ukraine, Russia, Siberia, and wherever, in short, those plants grow that furnish the cotton for constructing their nests*. But they are rare in Siberia, according to Gmelin†: nor can they be very common near Bologna; since, as we have already observed, Aldrovandus was unacquainted with them. Daniel Titius regards Italy‡ as the original country of the penduline titmice, whence they passed into the state of Venice, into Carinthia, Austria, the kingdom of Bohemia, Hungary, Poland,

* Daniel Titius remarks that Volhinia, Polesia, Lithuania, and other cantons of Poland, abound with marshes, and aquatic plants or trees, such as willows, alders, poplars, knapweeds, starworts, hawkweeds, juncagos, &c.

† *Voyage en Sibérie*, t. ii. p. 203. The Counsellor J. Ph. of Strahlenberg had observed these birds in Siberia before Gmelin, according to Daniel Titius.

‡ Hence the name *Romisch*.

and

and the more northern countries. They almost always haunt the marshes, and hide themselves among the bulrushes, and the foliage of the trees which grow in such situations. It is asserted that they never migrate on the approach of winter*. Such may be the case in temperate countries, where insects are found through the whole year: but, in the northern climates, I should suppose that the penduline titmice at least change their haunts during the intense colds; and, like the other titmice, resort to the inhabited spots. Accordingly, Kramer informs us that, in the vicinity of the city of Pruck, they are much more numerous in winter than in any other season; and that they always lodge, from preference, in the bulrushes and reeds.

It is said that they have a warble, though not well known. Yet the young ones taken from the nest have been kept several years, and fed solely on ants' eggs†: therefore they sing not in the cage.

The plumage of this bird is very ordinary: the crown of the head is whitish; the back of

* Cajetan Monti and Daniel Titius.

† Titius, p. 43, 44. In another place he says, that they sing better than the long-tailed titmouse, which, according to Belon, has a pleasant song.

the head, and the upper side of the neck, cinereous *; all the upper side of the body gray, but tinged with rusty in the fore part; the throat, all the under side of the body, white, tinged with cinereous gray before, and rusty behind: there is a black bar on the face, that extends on both sides to the eyes, and much beyond them; the superior coverts of the wings brown, edged with rufous, which becomes gradually more dilute near the extremity; the quills of the tail and of the wings brown also, but edged with whitish; the bill cinereous; the legs reddish cinereous.

It appears, from the description of Cajetan Monti, that in Italy the penduline titmice have more rufous in their plumage, and a slight tinge of green on the superior coverts of their wings, &c. and, from that of Gmelin, that those in Siberia have the back brown, the head white, and the breast tinged with rufous. But these are only variations occasioned by the climate, or perhaps owing to the difference of description; for a considerable diversity of appearance will arise from the distance they are held from the eye, and the light with which they are viewed.

* Daniel Titius saw a blackish spot near the first vertebra of the neck, and another near the anus.

The

The female, according to Kramer, is without the black bar as in the male: but, according to Gmelin, it has that bar. In both, the iris is yellow, and the pupil black: and they are scarcely larger than the common wren; that is, they are nearly the same size with the blue titmouse.

Total length, four inches and a half; the bill, five lines; the upper mandible a little incurvated; the lower longest in the young ones*; the *tarsus*, six lines and an half; the nails very sharp, the hind one longest; the alar extent, seven inches and one third; the tail two inches, consisting of twelve quills, a little tapered, and exceeding the wings thirteen lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Remiz, *Parus Pendulinus*: "Its head is somewhat ferruginous, with a black stripe on the eyes; the quills of the wings and of the tail brown, either margin ferruginous."

* Titius, p. 19 and 23.

T H E
LANGUEDOC TITMOUSE.

La Penduline, *Buff.* *

Parus Narbonensis, *Gmel.*

MONTI supposed that the Remiz, or penduline titmouse, was the only European bird that suspended its nest from branches †: but, not to mention the golden oriole, which fastens its nest sometimes to slender boughs, and which Frisch has mistaken for the long-tailed titmouse ‡, there is another species well known in Languedoc, though entirely overlooked by the naturalists, which builds as artfully as the Polish titmouse, and displays even more sagacity in the structure. It deserves the more our attention, because its talents have not attained the same celebrity. It may be considered as ana-

* In Languedoc it is vulgarly called *the wild canary*. The bird and nest were sent by M. de Brouffe, Mayor of Aramont, Deputy of the States of Languedoc.

† See Collection Academique partie etrangere, t. x. p. 371. *Academie de Bologne*.

‡ This error was the easier avoided, since the nest of the oriole is cup-shaped, open above; and since that bird never employs the down furnished by the flowers and leaves of certain plants, even though they grow abundantly near it.

logous

logous to the penduline titmouse, but not as a mere variety: the differences in its size, its proportions, its colours, the shape of its nest, &c. are fully sufficient to constitute it another species.

The nest is very large, compared with the size of the bird; shut above, and has nearly the bulk and shape of an ostrich's egg: its greater axis is six inches; its smaller axis, three and an half. It is suspended from the fork of a flexible poplar branch; and, to give greater stability, it is wrapped with wool, for the space of more than seven or eight inches; and the down of the poplar, the willow, &c. is also used. The aperture is placed in the side near the upper part, and has also a sort of projection, or penthouse, that juts eighteen lines. From these precautions, the young are better sheltered and concealed, and consequently safer than those of the penduline titmouse.

The throat and all the under side of the body are rusty white; the upper side rusty gray, deeper than the under; the top of the head gray; the superior coverts of the wings blackish, edged with rufous, and likewise the middle quills: but the rufous grows more dilute near the end. The great quills blackish, edged with whitish; the quills of the tail blackish, edged with

with light rufous: the bill black; the upper ridge brownish yellow; the legs lead colour.

Total length, rather less than four inches; the bill, like that of the titmouse, and four lines and an half; the *tarsus*, six lines; the hind nail the strongest of all, a little hooked: the tail, eleven or twelve lines, would be exactly square, were not the two exterior quills a little shorter than the rest: it exceeds the wings six lines.

THE

LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE.

La Mefange à longue Queue, *Buff.*

Parus Caudatus, *Linn. Gmel. Kram. Fris. Ray, Klein
& Scop.*

Parus Longicaudus, *Briff.*

Schwanzmeise, Pfannenstiel, *Guntk. & Wirs.*

Pendolino, o Paronzino, *Zinn.**

THIS very small bird is best distinguished by the length of its tail, which exceeds that of its body. It is slender, and its flight so rapid, that it seems like a dart shooting through the air†. But notwithstanding this remarkable disparity‡, it has still the essential characters of

* In Greek, Αιγίθαλος ορεινός, or mountain titmouse; *Arist.* Hist. Anim. lib. viii. 3. In Italian, *Paronzino, Pulzonzino, Pendolino*: in German, *Schwantz-mäise, (tail-titmouse), Zigel-mäise, (the same), Pfannen-stiel, or Pfannen-fliegli, (tail-filkin), Riet-mäise (reed-titmouse), Berg-mäise (mountain-titmouse), Schnee-mäise (snow-titmouse)*: in Polish, *Sikora Zdtugim Ogcnem.*

† British Zoology.

‡ This disparity induced Ray to suppose it a distinct genus. The authors of the British Zoology observe, that it much resembles the shrikes in the form of its bill, which is more convex than that of the titmice, and by other minute analo-

N^o 133



THE LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE.

B  L

of the titmice: its bill is short, yet pretty strong: its chief residence is in the woods; it is active and restless, fluttering incessantly from bush to bush, from shrub to shrub; running among the branches, hanging by the feet; lives in society, attending to the call of its companions; feeds on caterpillars, flies, and other insects, sometimes seeds; crops the buds from the trees; lays a great many eggs: in fine, according to the most accurate observations, it has the principal exterior characters of the titmice; and, what is more decisive, it has their habits and œconomy. Nor is the long tapered tail entirely distinct from those of all the other titmice, since those of the bearded and penduline kinds are somewhat of the same form.

With regard to the mode of constructing its nest, it follows a middle plan between that of the ox-eye and colemouse and that of the penduline titmouse. It does not conceal it in the hole of a tree, which would be ill adapted for its long tail, and it seldom or never hangs it to a slender string; but it fixes it firmly in

analogies: but there is evidently a wide difference between a shrike and the long-tailed titmouse. I am surprised that some nomenclator has not ranged the latter among the *motacilla*, where it would have made a figure, its long tail vibrating briskly and repeatedly up and down.

the branches of shrubs, three or four feet from the ground; works it into an oval, and almost cylindrical form; closes it above, leaving only an aperture of an inch in the side, and often makes two opposite holes, to avoid the inconvenience of turning*; a precaution the more useful, as the tail quills are easily detached, and drop with the slightest ruffling†. The nest differs from that of the penduline titmouse in other circumstances also: it is larger‡, of a more cylindrical form; its texture is not so close; its little aperture has seldom the protuberant brim§; its outer coat consists of stalks of herbs, moss, lichens, and, in short, of the coarser materials; and the inside is lined with a great deal of feathers, and not with that cotton which the willows and other plants furnish the penduline titmouse.

The long-tail titmouse lays ten or fourteen eggs, and even as many as twenty, concealed almost entirely beneath the feathers collected in the bottom of the nest; these eggs are of the size of a hazel nut, their greatest diameter being six lines; they are surrounded by a reddish zone

* Frisch and Rzaczynski.

† Hence it has been called *lose-tail* (perd-sa-queue).

‡ I measured one of these nests, which was eight inches high, and four wide.

§ Cajetan Monti and Daniel Titius, compared together.

on a gray ground, which grows more dilute at the thick end.

The young continue with the parents through the whole winter, and hence the small flocks of twelve or fifteen seen during that season. They utter a small shrill cry, only as a call; but in the spring they acquire a new modulation, which makes it much more pleasant*.

Aristotle assures us, that these birds prefer the mountains. Belon says, that he observed them in all countries; and Belon had travelled: he adds, that they seldom leave the woods to visit the gardens. Willughby informs us, that in England they frequent the gardens more than the mountains: Hebert asserts the same, but restricts it to the winter season. According to Gesner, they appear during cold weather only, and haunt the marshes; whence their name *reed titmice*. Daubenton, the younger, has seen flights of them in the king's garden, about the end of December; and has informed

* "It sings so pleasantly in the spring," says Belon, "that scarce any bird has a voice so lofty and airy." Gesner asserts that, in this season, the long-tailed titmouse utters *guickeg, guickeg*: this seems not to be the *pleasant song* which Belon mentions. Others say that this titmouse has a feeble voice, and a little shrill cry, *ti, ti, ti, ti*; but this is certainly not the warble heard in spring.

me, that they are frequent in the woods of Bourlogne. Lastly, some maintain that they continue through the winter; others, that they migrate; and others, that they arrive later than the other titmice, and have therefore been called *snow titmice*. These opposite statements may be reconciled, by supposing, what is at the same time very probable, that these birds vary their range according to circumstances; that they remain when their situation is comfortable, and change when they want a better; that they inhabit the mountain or the vale, the bank or the marsh, the forest or the vineyard, or wherever they can enjoy convenience and subsistence. They are seldom caught in traps, and their flesh is unpleasant food.

Their feathers are loose, and resemble a very long down: they have a sort of black eyebrows, and the upper eyelids of an orange yellow, but this colour is hardly visible in dried subjects; the upper side of the head, the throat, and all the under side of the body, white, shaded with blackish on the breast, and sometimes tinged with red on the belly, the loins, and under the tail: the back of the neck is black, whence rises a bar of the same colour, which stretches through the whole of the upper part of the body between two broad bars of bastard red; the

the tail black, edged with white; the fore part of the wing black and white; the great quills blackish; so are the middle ones, but edged with white, except those next the body, which are of the same rufous with the black; the ground of the feathers deep cinereous; the iris gray; the bill black, but gray at the point; and the legs blackish.

The white bar on the crown of the head spreads more or less, and sometimes incroaches so much on the lateral black bars, that the head appears entirely white. In some subjects, the under side of the body is all white; such were those seen by Belon, and some that I have observed myself. In females, the lateral bars of the head are only blackish, or even variegated with black and white, and the colours of the plumage are not well defined or contrasted. The bird is hardly larger than the gold-crested wren; it weighs about one hundred and fourteen grains. As its feathers are almost always bristled, it appears rather thicker than in reality.

Total length, five inches and two-thirds; the bill, three lines and a half, thicker than that of the blue titmouse, the upper mandible a little hooked; the tongue rather broader than in that bird, and terminated with filaments; the *tarsus*, seven lines and a half; the hind nail the

strongest; the alar extent, six inches and a half; the tail, three lines and a half, consisting of twelve unequal quills, and irregularly tapered, increasing constantly in length from the outermost which is eighteen lines to the fifth which is forty-two, or thereabouts; the intermediate pair only thirty-nine at most, and hardly equal to the fourth: the tail exceeds the wings about two inches and a half.

Its intestinal tube, four inches; only a slight trace of a *cæcum*; the gizzard muscular, and contained portions of insects and vegetables, a bit of a nut, but no pebbles. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Long-tailed Titmouse, *Parus Caudatus*: "Its top is hoary, its tail longer than its body, its head bearded."

THE
CAPE TITMOUSE.

Le Petit Deuil, *Buff.*
Parus Capensis, *Gmel.*

THIS little titmouse was brought from the Cape of Good Hope by Sonnerat, who published a description of it in the *Journal de Physique*. Its plumage is black, gray, and white; the head, the neck, the upper and under sides of the body, light cinereous gray; the quills of the wings black, edged with white; the tail black above, and white below; the iris, the bill, and the legs black.

This bird resembles those preceding, particularly the long-tailed titmouse, in the manner it constructs its nest; which it places in the thickest bushes, but not at the extremity of the branches, as some naturalists have supposed. The cock assists the hen in building; he strikes his wings forcibly against the sides of the nest, and compacts it into the form of an elongated ball; the aperture is in the side; the eggs in the centre, where they are safest and warmest.

So far the construction agrees with the long-tailed titmouse: but there is besides a small compartment where the male lodges during the incubation. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Parus Capensis*: "It is
" of a dilute cinereous gray; its wing quills black, edged
" with white; its tail black above, and white below."

THE

SIBERIAN TITMOUSE.

La Mefange à Ceinture Blanche, *Buff.**Parus Sibericus, Gmel.*

WE saw this bird in M. Mauduit's cabinet; but we are unacquainted with its history. Muller makes no mention of it, and perhaps it is not found in Denmark, though it was sent from Siberia. On the throat and the fore part of the neck is a black mark, which descends on the breast, accompanied on each side with a white bar, which rises from the corners of the mouth, passes below the eye, and descends spreading as far as the wings, and extends, on each side, on the breast, where it assumes a cinereous hue, and forms a broad cincture: all the rest of the under side of the body is rusty gray; so is the upper side, but deeper; the upper part of the head and neck, brown gray; the superior coverts of the wings, their quills, and those of the tail, ash brown: the quills of the wings, and the outer quill of the tail, edged with rufous gray; the bill and legs, blackish.

Total

Total length, five inches ; bill, six lines ; the *tarsus*, seven lines ; the tail twenty-two lines, and exceeds the wings fifteen lines : it is a little tapered, in which respect this species resembles more the bearded, the penduline, and the long-tailed titmice, than the others, in all which it is a little forked.

THE
CRESTED TITMOUSE*.

La Mefange Huppée, *Buff.*

Parus Cristatus, *All the Naturalists.*

The Juniper Titmouse, *Charleton.*

IT has a handsome black and white crest, which rises eight or ten lines on the head, and whose feathers taper with an elegant regularity. The bird is also naturally perfumed, and exhales the scents of the junipers and other resinous trees and shrubs, among which it almost constantly lodges†. And these advantages, which seem appropriated to the luxury of society, are enjoyed in the wildest solitude; not so completely, perhaps, but surely in more tranquillity. Forests and heaths, especially those abounding with junipers and firs, are its fa-

* In German, *Schopf-meise* (tufted titmouse), *Hauben-meise* (capped titmouse), *Heiden-meislin* (heath titmouse), *Struss-meislin* (strutting titmouse), *Kopf-meise* (head titmouse): in Swedish, *Tofs-mussa*, *Tofs-tita*, *Mesbatt*: in Polish, *Sikora-czubata*.

† Charleton.

vourite haunts: there it lives sequestered, and shuns the company of all other birds, even those of its own species*. It is equally beyond the reach of man: its retreat and its caution save it from the fowler's snares. It is seldom caught in traps; and, if surprised, it will refuse food, and, spurning every soothing attention, will expire in confinement. Hence it is little known: we learn only that, in its congenial solitude, it feeds upon the insects which it catches as they fly about the trees; and that it has the chief character of the titmice, great fecundity.

Of all the French provinces, Normandy is that where it is most common. It is unknown, says Salerne, both in Orleanois, and in the neighbourhood of Paris. Belon makes no mention of it, nor Olin; and Aldrovandus would seem to have never seen it: so that Sweden, on the one side, and the north of France on the other, are the limits of its excursions.

* This is the opinion of Frisch, corroborated by that of the Viscount de Querhoënt. Yet I must own, that, according to Rzaczynski, the crested titmice go in flocks; but his authority will not outweigh that of the other two observers. Rzaczynski adds, that, in autumn, many of these birds are caught in the mountains.

THE CRESTED TITMOUSE. 445

Its throat is black, its face white, and also its cheeks, on which the white is framed in a slender black collar, which rises from the two sides of the black mark on the throat, and mounts in a curve to the back of the head: there is a black vertical bar behind the eye; the under side of the body, whitish; the flanks, light rufous; the upper side of the body, rufous gray; the ground of the feathers, black; the quills of the tail gray, and those of the wings brown; all of them edged with rufous gray, except the great ones of the quills, which are partly dirty white; the bill blackish, and the legs lead coloured.

Willughby perceived a greenish tinge on the back, and on the outer edge of the quills of the tail and of the wings: Charleton saw a similar tinge on the feathers that compose the crest; probably these feathers have different reflections, or vary slightly from age, sex, &c.

This bird weighed about the third of an ounce, and was hardly larger than the long-tailed titmouse.

Total length, four inches and three quarters; the bill, five lines and a half; the tongue terminated by four filaments; the *tarsus*, eight lines; the hind nail the strongest; the alar
5 extent,

extent, seven inches and a half; the wing composed of eighteen quills; the tail about twenty-two lines, a little forked, and composed of twelve quills; it exceeds the wings ten lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Crested Titmouse, *Parus Cristatus*: "Its head is crested; its collar black; its belly white." Its egg is whitish rufous, with small reddish spots.

FOREIGN

FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE TITMICE.

I.

THE CRESTED TITMOUSE OF
CAROLINA.La Mefange Huppée de la Caroline, *Buff.*Parus Bicolor, *Linn. & Gmel.*Parus Carolinensis Cristatus, *Briff.*The Crested Titmouse, *Catesby.*The Toupet Titmouse, *Penn. & Lath.*

THE crest of this foreign bird is not permanent, but only rises and tapers to a point during a fit of passion; ordinarily its feathers recline flat on the head.

This bird inhabits, breeds, and continues during the whole year in Carolina, Virginia; and probably it occurs also in Greenland*, since Muller has inserted it in his Danish Zoology. It lives in the forests, and, like all the other titmice, it feeds on insects: it is larger than the preceding species, and differently pro-

* The Greenlanders call it *Auingursak*.

portioned ;

portioned ; for its bill is shorter, and its tail longer : it weighs about four gros : its plumage is pretty uniform : its forehead is encircled with a sort of black fillet : the rest of the upper side of the head and of the body, and even the quills of the tail and of the wings, are deep gray : the under side of the body is white, mixed with a slight tinge of red, which becomes more perceptible on the inferior coverts of the wings : the bill is black, and the legs lead coloured.

The female is exactly like the male.

Total length, about six inches ; the bill, five lines and an half ; the *tarfus*, eight lines and an half ; the hind nail strongest ; the tail two inches and an half, consisting of twelve quills ; and it exceeds the wings about sixteen lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Parus Bicolor* : “ Its head is crested, and black before ; its body cinereous ; below tawny whitish.” It inhabits the forests in Virginia and the Carolinas : its flight is swift ; its note feeble.

II.

THE COLLARED TITMOUSE.

La Mefange à Collier, *Buff.*

Parus Carolinensis Torquatus, Briff.

The Hooded Titmouse, *Catesby.*

IT appears to have a black hood set a little back on its yellow head, the fore part being uncovered: the throat too has a yellow mark, below which is a black collar: all the rest of the under side of the body is also yellow, and all the upper side olive: the bill is black, and the legs brown. The bird is nearly the size of the chaffinch. It inhabits Carolina.

Total length, five inches; the bill, six lines; the *tarsus*, nine lines; the tail twenty-one lines, a little forked, and exceeds the wings ten lines.

III.

THE YELLOW RUMP TITMOUSE.

La Mefange à Croupion Jaune, *Buff.*

Parus Virginianus, *Linn. Gmel. Briss.*

Luscinia Uropygio Luteo, *Klein.*

The Yellow Rump, *Catesby.*

The Virginian Titmouse, *Penn. & Lath.*

IT creeps on the trees like the woodpeckers, says Catesby; and, like them, it commonly feeds upon insects: its bill is blackish; its legs brown; its throat, and all the under side of its body, gray; its head, and all the upper side of its body, as far as the end of the tail, including the wings and their coverts, of a greenish brown, excepting always the rump, which is yellow. This yellow rump is the only beauty of the bird, and what alone interrupts the insipid uniformity of its plumage. The female resembles the male: both are nearly as large as the chaffinch, and were observed in Virginia by Catesby.

Total length, about five inches; the bill, five lines; the *tarsus*, eight lines; the tail twenty-one lines, a little forked, consisting of twelve quills, of which the intermediate ones are a little

little shorter than the lateral ones, and it exceeds the wings about ten lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Parus Virginianus*: "Its rump is yellow; its body cinereous."

IV.

THE YELLOW-THROATED GRAY
TITMOUSE.

La Mefange Grise à Gorge Jaune, *Buff.*

Parus Carolinensis Griseus, *Briff.*

The Yellow-throated Creeper, *Catesby.*

NOT only the throat, but all the fore part of the neck, is of a fine yellow; and also on each side of the head, or rather at the base of the upper mandible, is a small trace of that colour: the rest of the under side of the body is white, with some black streaks on the flanks: all the upper side is of a handsome gray: a black bar covers the face, extends on the eyes, and descends on both sides of the neck, accompanying the yellow mark of which I have spoken: the wings are of a brown gray, and bear two

G g 2

white

white spots : the tail is black and white ; the bill black, and the legs brown.

The female has neither the fine yellow which sets off the plumage of the male, nor the black spots which rise out of the other colours.

This bird is common in Carolina. It weighs only two gros and an half ; and yet Brisson supposes it as large as the ox-eye, which is seven or eight gros.

Total length, five inches and one third ; the bill, six lines ; the *tarsus*, eight lines and an half ; the nails very long, the hind one strongest ; the tail twenty-six lines, a little forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeds the wings fourteen lines.

V.

THE GREAT BLUE TITMOUSE.

La Grosse Mefange Bleue, *Buff.*

Parus-Cyanus, *Gmel.*

Parus Indicus, *Ray & Will.*

Parus Cæruleus Major, *Briss.*

THE figure of this bird was communicated by the Marquis Fachinetto to Aldrovandus. It made a part of the coloured drawings of

of birds, which certain travellers from Japan presented to Pope Benedict XIV. and which were suspected by the sagacious naturalist Willughby, as either imaginary or very inaccurate. But we shall exactly copy the description of Aldrovandus.

Light blue predominates on all the upper part of this bird, and white on the under: a very deep blue is spread on the quills of the tail, and of the wings: the iris is yellow: there is a black spot behind the eyes: the tail is as long as the body, and the legs are black and small, which is not the case in the titmouse: besides, the description shews a certain uniformity different from the design of nature, and which justifies the suspicions of Willughby. [A]

[A] A bird, answering nearly to Aldrovandus's description, has lately been discovered in the remote parts of Russia, and described, in the Petersburg Transactions, by Pallas, Falck, and Lepechin. We cannot do better than transcribe Mr. Pennant's account of it.

"AZURE TITMOUSE. With a very short and thick bill; crown, and hind part of the head, of a hoary whiteness; the lower part of the last bounded by a transverse band of dark blue; cheeks white, crossed by a deep blue line, extending beyond the eyes; back, light blue; rump, whitish; under side of the neck, breast, and belly of a snowy whiteness, with a single dusky spot on the breast: wings varied with rich blue, dusky, and white; tail rather long, of a dusky hue, tipped with white; legs dusky blue."

"Size of the English Blue Titmouse. The plumage of this

this elegant species is extremely loose, soft, and of most exquisitely fine texture ; and so liable to be raised, that when the bird is sitting, but especially when it is asleep, it appears like a ball of feathers."——

"It inhabits, in great abundance, the northern woods of Siberia and Russia, and about Synbirsk, in the government of Kasan. It is a migratory bird, and appears in winter conversant about the houses in Petersburg : it twitters like the common sparrow, but with a softer and sweeter note." *Arctic Zoology*, vol. ii. 426.

VI.

THE AMOROUS TITMOUSE*.

La Mefange Amoureuse, *Buff.*

Parus Amatorius, *Gmel.*

Parus Erastes, *Commerſon.*

CHINA also has its titmice : the present was brought by the Abbé Gallois from the extremity of Asia, and was shewn to Commerſon in 1769. I have been induced, by the account of this naturalist, to place it at the close of the list of titmice, from which it manifestly differs, by the length and shape of its bill.

The epithet of amorous expresses the warmth

* Some have called it the *Canoneſs*, on account of its garb.

of its constitution : the male and female continually caress each other, at least in the cage, where it is their sole occupation : they even wear out their vigour ; and if this solacement banishes the gloom of confinement, it also abridges the period of their life. Commerson does not tell us if the same ardour pervades their other functions, and is displayed in the construction of their nest, their incubation, &c. and whether their brood is as numerous as in the other titmice. In the ordinary course of nature the affirmative is the most probable, though it may indeed be modified by climate, and peculiar instincts.

Their plumage is entirely of a slaty black, which appears equally on the upper and under side of the body, and the uniformity of which is only interrupted by a bar divided by yellow and rufous, placed longitudinally on the wing, and formed by the exterior border of some of the middle quills : this bar has three indentings, at its origin, near the middle of the wing, which consists of fifteen or sixteen quills differing little in length.

The amorous titmouse weighs three gros : it is of the same shape with the other titmice, and of a middle size ; but its tail is shorter, and only five inches and a quarter ; the bill eight lines,

black at the base, and bright orange at the opposite extremity ; the upper mandible exceeding a little the lower, and having its edges slightly indented near the tip ; the tongue somewhat truncated at the end, as in the other titmice ; the *tarsus*, eight lines ; the mid toe the longest, adhering by its first phalanx to the outer toe ; the nails forming a semi-circle by their curvature, the hind one strongest ; the alar extent, seven inches and an half ; the tail near two inches, a little forked, consisting of twelve quills : it exceeds the wings more than an inch. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Parus Amatorius* : " It is ringed with slate colour ; a longitudinal spot on the wings, divided by yellow and rufous."

THE BLACK TITMOUSE, or the *Parus Cela* of Linnæus*, bears a striking resemblance to this species ; since the only difference in regard to colours is, that its bill is white, and there is a yellow spot on the superior coverts of the tail. Linnæus says that it is found in the Indies ; but he means the West Indies, for Dupratz saw it in Guiana. Notwithstanding this, the wide

* The Guiana Titmouse of Latham. Specific character : " It is black ; its bill white ; a yellow spot on the wings, and at the base of the tail."

difference

difference of climate, we must consider it as only a variety of the amorous titmouse of China; but to be more decisive would require a knowledge of its size, proportions, and, above all, of its natural habits.

T H E
N U T H A T C H.

La Sitelle, Buff.

Sitta Europæa, Linn. & Gmel.

Parus Facie Pici, Klein.

Picus Subcæruleus, Schwenckf.

Picus Cinereus, Gefner & Johnst.

Sitta, Ray, Charl. Sibb. Fris. Briff. &c.

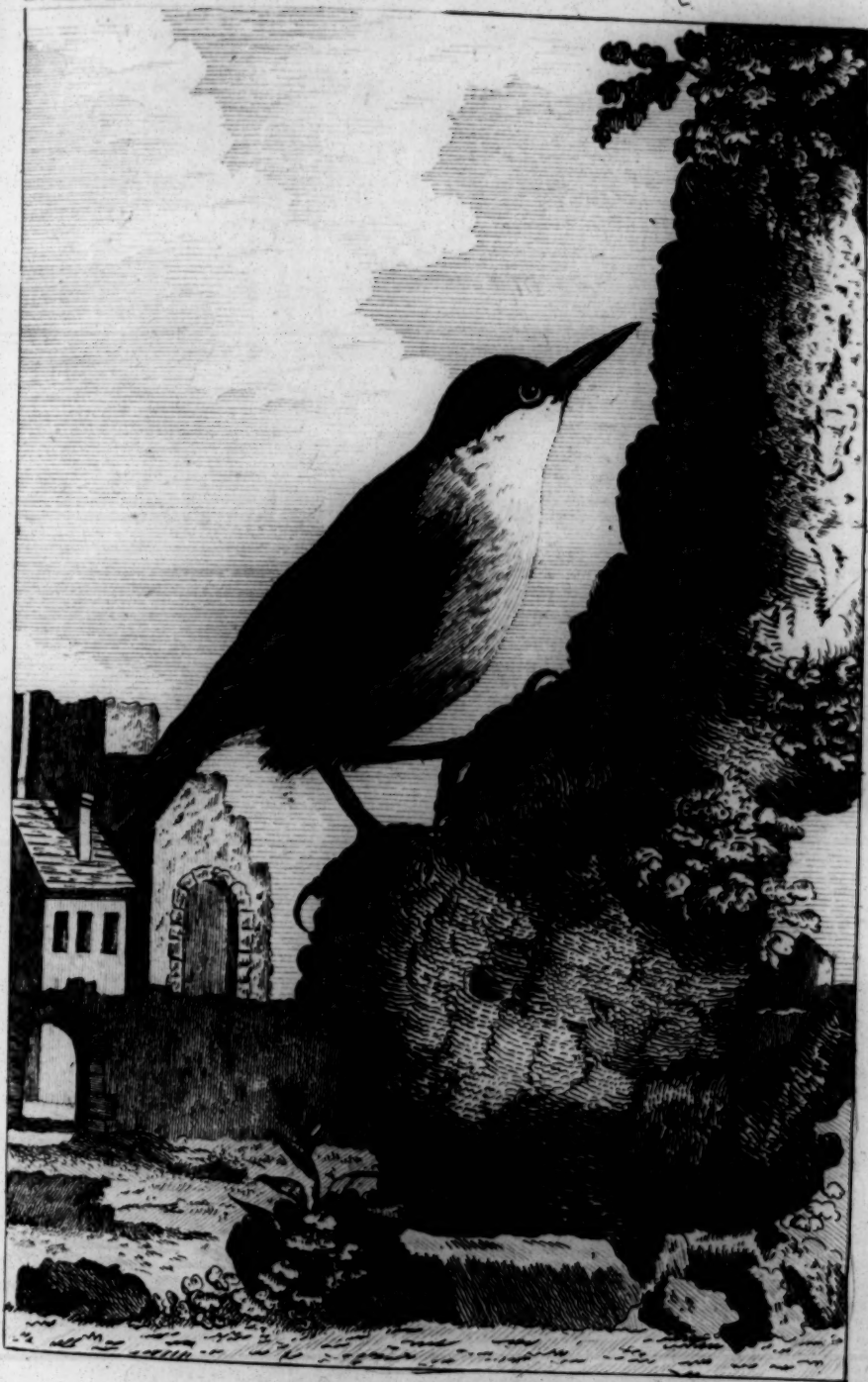
The Woodcracker, Plot.

*The Nutbreaker, Albin.**

THE nuthatch seldom migrates from one country to another; it constantly resides where it is bred, only in winter it seeks warm aspects, approaches the dwellings, and even visits sometimes the vineyards and the gardens. Perhaps it finds shelter in the same holes where it collects its stores, and probably passes the night; for, when kept in confinement,

* In Greek, Σιτίνη or Σιπίνη; Arist. *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 1 & 17. Also Τλοτομύσσα, from ὕλη, wood, and τεμνω, to cut; Κιναιδος, from κινεω, to move; and Σεισοπύγης, from σειω, to shake, and πύγη, the rump, on account of a motion which it has with its tail: in modern Greek, Κερκινίτης: in Latin, *Sitta*: in Italian, *Pico*, or *Picchio*, *Ziollo*: in German, *Nussbäcker*, *Nussbaer*, *Nussbäcker*, *Nussbickel* (these words signify *nutcracker*), *Meyspecht* (May-spight), *Blau-spechtel* (blue spight-

N^o 134



THE EUROPEAN NUTHATCH.

B  L

ment, though it sometimes perches on the bars of the cage, it seeks holes to sleep in, and, if unsuccessful, will repose even in the drawer. It seldom squats in the natural position, or with its head erect; it is commonly awry, or even hanging downwards; in this situation it bores the nuts, after fixing them firm in a chink*. It trips on the trees in all directions to catch insects. Aristotle says, that it habitually breaks the eagle's eggs; and indeed, if it could climb to the lofty eyries of the king of birds, it might pierce and eat the eggs, which are not so

spightling), *Grosse Baum-Kletter* (great wood-climber): in Swedish, *Noetwaecka*, *Noetpacka*: in Danish, *Spætmeisse*: in Norwegian, *Nat wacke*, *Edge*, *Eremit*: in Polish, *Dzieciot Modrawy*.

Most of the names which the moderns have imposed on this bird, convey false or incomplete ideas: such are the *May Woodpecker*, *Blue Woodpecker*, *Mason Woodpecker*, *Nutcracker*, *Creepers*, *Wagtail*, &c. This bird strikes with its bill on the bark of trees with more force and noise than even the woodpeckers and titmice, and it has much of the air and aspect of the latter: but it is distinguished from the titmice by the form of its bill, and from the woodpeckers by the form of its tail, its feet, and its tongue. It is discriminated from the creepers by its bill and its habit of cracking nuts; and from the nutcrackers again by its habit of creeping upon trees: it has an alternate motion of the tail upwards and downwards, like the wagtails, but its œconomy is entirely different.

* Albin.

hard as nuts. But it is idle to assert, that this is what provokes the vengeance of the eagle*, as if a bird of prey needs instigation to plunder and devour weaker birds.

Though the nuthatch spends a great part of its time in climbing or creeping upon trees, its motions are quicker and nimbler than those of the sparrow; they are also smoother and more connected, for it makes less noise in flying. It commonly lives in the woods, in the most solitary manner; yet if confined in a volery with other birds, sparrows, for instance, or finches, it will continue on good terms with them.

In spring, the male has a song, or love-call, *guiric, guiric*, often repeated. The female is long invited, it is said, before she will yield to the solicitations; but, when the union is accomplished, both in concert labour in forming their nest. They fix it in the hole of a tree†; and when they cannot find one that suits them, they make an excavation with their bills, if the wood be worm-eaten: if the external aperture

* *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 1. Perhaps the *clamitoria* or *prohibitoria* of Pliny is the same bird: the name *prohibitoria* might allude to the ancient fables, with regard to the nuthatch, and to its use in necromancy. See *Nat. Hist.* lib. x. 14.

† Sometimes in the hole of a wall or of a roof, says Linnaeus.

be too large, they contract it with fat earth, and sometimes with dirt, which they mould and fashion, it is said, as a potter would do his clay, and they strengthen it with small stones; and hence are derived the names *mason-woodpecker* and *wipe-pot**. From the appearance of the outside of the nest, we could hardly suppose it lodged birds.

The hen lays five, six, or seven eggs of the ordinary shape, of a dirty white ground, and dotted with rusty; the bed is wood dust, moss, &c. She hatches assiduously; and so ardent is her attachment that she will suffer the feathers to be torn, rather than quit the nest. If it be rummaged with a stick, she bristles with rage, and hisses like a serpent, or rather like a titmouse in the same situation. Nor does she leave her eggs to seek food, but patiently expects the return of the male, who affectionately brings supply. They do not live altogether on ants, like the woodpeckers, but on caterpillars, beetles, gadflies, and all sorts of insects, and the various kinds of nuts†. The flesh of the young ones

* *Torche-pot*: this word comes from *torche-poteux*, which signifies *wipe-hole*.

† I fed a female six weeks with hemp-seed which other birds had dropped bruised. It has indeed been remarked, that the nuthatch visits the hemp-fields about the month of September.

accord-

accordingly, when they are fat, is excellent, and has not the wild taste of the woodpeckers.

The incubation is completed in May*; and after the young are reared, the parents seldom begin a second hatch, but dissolve their union, and live separate during the winter. "The peasants have observed," says Belon, "that the cock beats the hen whenever he finds her after parting; and hence it is become a proverb, that a person who keeps his wife in due order is like a nuthatch." But the conduct of the husband has no concern, I am confident, in the present case: the female, as she is the last to pair, is probably the first in separating; and when the male meets her after a long absence, he loads her with caresses, and gives vent to rapturous endearments, which inaccurate observers may mistake for harsh usage.

The nuthatch is silent through the greatest part of the year; its ordinary cry *ti, ti, ti, ti, ti, ti*, which it repeats as it scrambles round the trees, and quickens the measure more and more. Linnæus asserts from the testimony of Strom, that it cries also during the night.

Besides the different cries and the noise which

* I saw some nestlings by the 10th, and I saw some eggs not hatched by the 15th.

it makes in beating on the bark, the nuthatch, inserting its bill in a chink, makes another very singular sound, as if the tree were split in two, and which may be heard more than two hundred yards*.

This bird has been observed to hop; to sleep with its head under its wing; to spend the night on the floor of its cage, though there were two roosts where it might have perched. It is said not to frequent springs, and therefore cannot be ensnared by placing limed twigs near these. Schwenckfeld relates that it is often caught by using tallow alone for the bait: and this is another feature of resemblance to the titmice, which, as we have seen, are fond of all fat substances.

The cock weighs near an ounce, and the hen five or six gros only†. In the former, all the upper part of the head and body, and even the two intermediate quills of the

* *British Zoology*. Besides their *toc, toc, toc*, against the wood, these birds rub their bill upon the dry and hollow branches, and make a noise *grrrrrrro*, which is heard at a very great distance, and might be imagined to proceed from a bird twenty times as large: this I have been assured by an old gamekeeper, who most assuredly had never read the *British Zoology*.

† One dried in the chimney a year, and very well preserved, weighed only two gros and a half.

tail,

tail, are blueish cinereous; the throat and the cheeks whitish; the breast and the belly orange; the flanks, the thighs, and near the anus, of a deeper cast, inclined to chestnut; the lower coverts of the tail whitish, edged with rufous, and extending five lines from the end of the tail: there is a black bar which rises from the nostrils, passes over the eyes, and extends behind the ears; the great superior coverts, and the quills of the wings brown, edged with gray, which is more or less intense; the lateral quills of the tail black terminated with cinereous, the outermost edged with white as far as the middle, and crossed near the end with a spot of the same colour; the three following marked with a white spot on the inside; the bill cinereous above, lighter below; the legs gray; the ground of the feathers blackish cinereous.

In the female the colours are fainter. I observed one on the third of May, of which all the under side of the body, from the anus to the base of the neck, was unfeathered, as common in hen birds.

Total length, six inches; the bill, ten lines, straight, a little inflated above and below; the two mandibles nearly equal, and the upper one not scalloped; the nostrils almost round, half covered

covered by small feathers, which sprout at the bottom of the bill, and run parallel to its aperture: the tongue is flat, and broader at the base. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Nuthatch or Nutjobber, *Sitta Europæa*: "Its tail quills are black, its four lateral ones white below the tip."

VARIETIES of the NUTHATCH.

THE character of this genus of birds seems little affected by the influence of various climates. Its œconomy and natural habits are ever the same: the upper part always ash gray, the lower stained with rufous, more or less dilute, and sometimes whitish. The chief difference consists in the size and proportions, and this does not constantly result from climate. After attentively comparing the foreign Nuthatches with the European kinds, I am convinced that they are varieties of the same species. I except one only, which differs in many respects; and, from the little curvature of its bill, seems to form the shade between the nuthatches and the creepers.

I. THE LITTLE NUTHATCH*. I must borrow this variety from Belon. According to him, it is much smaller than the common nuthatch: its plumage, its bill, and its feet are the same. It lives in the woods like the large sort, and is equally solitary. "It is more noisy, joyous and roving," says Belon; "the male is never seen with other company but its female; and if it meets with any other of the species (he means a male), it attacks it, teases it, and contends obstinately till his rival gives way; then cries shrill and with all his vigour, inviting his female, and demanding the prize attached to his victory." To such cases, perhaps, Belon alluded, when he asserted that the voice was louder than that of the ordinary nuthatch.

II. THE CANADA NUTHATCH†. It climbs, says Brisson, and runs upon the trees like the European kind, and differs only by the colour of the fillet, which it has whitish; but it approaches the other by a blackish spot behind the eye. On a near examination, we perceive some diversity in the shades and propor-

* *Sitta Minor*, Brisson.

† *Sitta Canadensis*, Linn. Gmel. Brisson.

Specific character: "Its eyebrows are white."

tions,

tions, which will best be conceived by comparing the figures. It is nearly of the same size with the preceding variety.

Total length, four inches six lines; the bill, seven lines and a half; the *tarsus*, seven lines; the mid toe, six lines and a half, the hind nail the strongest; the alar extent, seven inches and a quarter; the tail eighteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeding the wings eight lines.

III. THE BLACK-CRESTED NUTHATCH*.

The black crest, and a sort of black and white stripes near the end of the quills of the tail, are the principal differences that distinguish this from the common nuthatch. It has no black fillet; but this is supposed to be lost in the edges of a hood of the same colour, which covers the head. It inhabits Jamaica, where Sloane observed it: it feeds on insects, like the rock manakin, says this philosophical traveller: it is found among the bushes in the savannas: it is

* *Sitta Jamaicensis*, Linn. Gmel. & Briss.

Sitta Major Capite Nigro, Ray.

The Loggerhead, Brown & Sloane.

The Jamaica Nuthatch, Lath.

Specific character: "It has a black cap."

so tame, and allows a person to go so near to it, that it is often knocked down with sticks; whence it has been called *the loggerhead*. It is nearly of the size of the common nuthatch. Sloane remarks that its head is large.

Total length, five inches five lines; the bill, eleven lines, triangular, compressed, surrounded at the base with little black bristles; the nostrils round; the *tarsus* and mid toe, seventeen lines, the hind nail the strongest; the alar extent, ten inches; the tail, two inches and two-thirds.

IV. THE LITTLE BLACK-CRESTED NUTHATCH*. All that Brown informs us with regard to this bird is, that it inhabits the same country with the preceding; that it is smaller, but is similar in all other respects. Perhaps it was only a young one, not fully grown: the name which Brown applies seems to favour this conjecture.

V. THE BLACK-HEADED NUTHATCH†. Its habits are the same with those of the com-

* *Sitta Jamaicensis*, var. 1st. *Linn.*
Sitta Jamaicensis Minor, *Briss.*
 The Least Loggerhead, *Brown.*

† *Sitta Europæa*, 2d var. *Linn.*
Sitta Carolinensis, *Briss.*
 The Smaller Loggerhead, *Brown.*

mon nuthatch: it clammers both upwards and downwards: it continues the whole year in its native climate, Carolina. It weighs four gros and three quarters: the upper side of the head and neck is covered with a sort of black cowl, and the lateral quills of the tail are variegated with black and white. In other respects, its plumage is the same with that of the European nuthatch, but has rather more whitish beneath the body.

Total length, five inches and a quarter; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, eight lines and a half; the mid toe nine lines, the hind nail the strongest; the tail nineteen lines, and does not exceed the wings.

VI. THE LITTLE BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH*. I need only add, that there is a whitish spot behind the head; that the superior coverts of the wings are brown, and that the lateral quills of the tail are of an uniform black. It is also much smaller than the preceding varieties; and this circumstance, together with the obvious difference of plumage,

* *Sitta Pufilla*, *Lath. Ind.*

The Loggerhead, *Sloane*.

The Small Nuthatch, *Catesby*.

sufficiently distinguishes it from Sloane's second species of nuthatch, though Brisson seems inclined to confound them. It is only two gros: it continues the whole year in Carolina, where it lives on insects, like the black-headed nuthatch.

Total length, four lines and one-third; the bill, seven lines; the tail fourteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and hardly exceeds the wings.

FOREIGN

[471]

FOREIGN BIRDS

RELATED TO THE NUTHATCH.

I.

THE GREAT HOOK-BILLED NUTHATCH.

Sitta Major, *Gmel.*

The Great Nuthatch, *Lath.*

IT is the largest of the known nuthatches: its bill, though pretty straight, is inflated at the middle, and a little hooked at the end; the nostrils are round; the quills of the tail and of the wings edged with orange on a brown ground; the throat white; the head and back gray; the under side of the body whitish. Such are the principal properties of the bird. It was observed by Sloane in Jamaica.

Total length, about seven inches and a half; the bill, eight lines and one third; the upper mandible a little protuberant near the middle; the mid toe, eight lines and one third; the alar extent, eleven inches and a quarter; the tail about twenty-three lines.

H h 4

II. THE

II.

THE SPOTTED NUTHATCH, *Lath.*

La Sittelle Grivelée, *Buff.*

Sitta Nævia, *Gmel.*

The Wall-creeper of Surinam, *Edw.*

THIS is another American nuthatch, with a hooked bill; but differs from the preceding in size, plumage, and climate: it inhabits Dutch Guiana.

The upper side of the head and of the body of a dull ash colour; the superior coverts of the wings, of the same colour, but terminated with white; the throat white; the breast and all the under side of the body cinereous, and more dilute than the upper side, with white streaks scattered on the breast and sides, which forms a sort of speckling; the bill and legs brown.

Total length, about six inches; the bill, an inch; the *tarsus*, seven lines and a half; the mid toe, eight or nine lines, longer than the hind toe whose nail is the strongest; the tail, about eighteen lines, consisting of twelve nearly equal quills; exceeds the wings thirteen or fourteen lines.

T H E
C R E E P E R S.

Les Grimpereaux, *Buff.*

WE have already treated of several creeping birds, the nuthatches and titmice: we shall see others in the sequel, such as the woodpeckers; but the appellation of *creepers* is appropriated to the genus which we are now to consider. They creep very nimbly on trees, both in ascending and descending; both on the upper and the under side of the branches: they run swiftly along beams, clasping the edge with their little feet. They are distinguished from the woodpeckers by their bill and tongue; and from the titmice by the greater length of their bill; and from the nuthatches by its more slender and hooked form; and accordingly they do not strike the bark with it, like these other birds.

Many foreign species of creepers resemble much the humming birds; by their diminutive size, by the rich colours of their plumage, by their slender incurvated bill, only it is of a more lengthened and sharper form, while that of the humming

humming bird is of an equal thickness throughout, or even slightly inflated at the tip: the legs of the creepers are shorter, their wings longer, and their tail contains twelve quills, though that of the humming birds has only ten: and, lastly, the tongue of the creepers is not, like that of the humming birds, composed of two cylindrical half tubes, which, joined together, form an entire tube, and is properly an organ of respiration, and more analogous to the feeler of an insect than the tongue of a bird.

The genus of creepers is also spread through a wider extent than that of the humming birds. These seem peculiar to the continent of America, and seldom venture farther than the southern parts of Canada; and at that latitude the breadth of the ocean is too vast to be traversed by a little insect-bird. But the creeper of Europe penetrating to Denmark, or even beyond, those of Asia and America probably advanced also to the north, so that an easy communication might be found from one continent to the other.

As the creepers live upon the same insects with the woodpeckers, the nuthatches, and the titmice, and cannot, from the defect of their bill, extract the insects lodged under the bark, they follow those birds, which they make their providers,

providers, and dexterously snatch the little prey. And since insects are their sole subsistence, we may readily suppose that the species are more prolific and varied in hot climates, where such provision abounds, than in cold or temperate climates, which are less favourable to the multiplication of insects. This is an observation of Sonnerat, and it corresponds to facts.

It is a general remark, that the plumage of young birds is not so bright as that of adults; but the difference is more striking in the brilliant tribes of the creepers, the humming birds, and other small birds that inhabit the immense forests of America. Bajon informs us, that the colours of these are formed very gradually, and do not assume their lustre till after a number of moultings. He adds, that the females are smaller than the males, and inferior in beauty*.

Whatever analogy subsists between the creepers of the old and of the new continent, they are yet distinct; and I have no doubt but, in time, more important differences will be found both in their exterior appearance and in their natural habits†.

* *Memoires pour servir à l'Histoire de Cayenne*, p. 257.

† In Senegal, according to Adanson, there are many species of birds, of which the females are as brilliant as the males.

T H E
C O M M O N C R E E P E R,

Le Grimpereau, *Buff.*

Certhia Familiaris, *Linn. Gmel. Mull. & Brun.*

Certhius Minor, *Fris.*

Falcinellus Arboreus *Noftras, Klein.*

Ispida Caudâ Rigidâ, *Kram.*

Certhia, *Will. Ray & Briff.**

LITTLE animals are commonly the most agile. The creeper is nearly as small as the crowned wren, and accordingly is perpetually in motion: but the scene of its activity is extremely limited; it never migrates, and its ordinary abode is the hole of a tree. From this it emerges in pursuit of the insects harboured in the bark and the moss; and there the female breeds and hatches†. Belon asserts, and almost all the naturalists have repeated it, that the creeper has about twenty eggs; but he certainly confounded it with the titmice. For my own

* In Greek, *Κερθιος*, *Κερθια*, *Κερθιος*; *Arist. Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 17. In Italian, *Cerzia Cenerina*, *Picchio Passerino*, *Rampichino*: in German, *Baum-lauffer* (tree-runner), *Rinden-kleber* (bark-climber), *Hirngrille* (brain-cricket): in Danish, *Træ Pikke*, *Lichesten*: in Swedish, *Krypare*.

† *Frisch* says, that it defends itself stoutly against the *authatch*, when invaded.

part, I am confident, both from my own observations and those of many naturalists*, that the hen generally lays only five eggs, and seldom or never above seven: they are cinereous, with points and streaks of a deeper colour, and the shell is pretty hard. It is observed that the hatch is begun early in the spring, which is very probable, since the bird is neither obliged to construct its nest nor to migrate.

Frisch asserts, that they search for insects on walls; but since he was not acquainted with the real wall-creeper, and did not recognize it in Gesner's description, though distinctly characterised, he probably confounded here the two species, especially as the common creeper is recluse, and lives chiefly in the woods. One was brought to me in the month of January 1773, which had been shot on an acacia in the king's garden; but it was regarded as a curiosity, and the people who worked there the whole year told me that they very seldom saw these birds. Nor are they common in Burgundy or Italy†, though frequent in England‡: they are found also in Germany, and as far as

* Salerne, Lottinger, Ginnani.

† Gerini.

‡ Willughby.

Denmark, as I have already remarked. They have a weak cry, which is very shrill and very common. They generally weigh five drachms English, and appear larger than they really are, because their feathers are not laid regularly upon one another, but bristled and disordered, and they are also very long.

The throat of the creeper is pure white, but generally assumes a rusty tint, which is always deeper on the flanks and the remote parts (sometimes all the under side of the body is white), the upper side variegated with rufous, with white, and with blackish; and these colours vary in their brightness and intensity: the head is of a darker cast; the ring about the eyes, and the eyebrows, white; the rump rufous; the quills of the wings brown, the three first edged with gray, the fourteen following marked with a whitish spot, which forms on the wing a transverse bar of the same colour; the three last marked near the tip with a black spot between two white ones: the bill is brown above, and whitish below; the legs gray; the ground of the feathers deep cinereous.

Total length, five inches; the bill, eight lines, slender, hooked, contracting gradually, and terminating in a point: the throat is wide, says Belon; the nostrils very oblong, half covered

vered by a convex membrane, without any small feathers; the tongue pointed and cartilaginous at the tip, shorter than the bill; the *tarsus*, seven lines; the mid toe seven lines and a half, the lateral toes adhering to the middle one by their first phalanx; the hind nail the strongest, and even longer than its toe; the nails in general very long, hooked, and calculated for climbing; the alar extent, about seven inches; the tail twenty-four lines, according to Brisson, and twenty-eight, according to Willughby: I have found it to be twenty-six: it consists of twelve tapered quills*, the longer ones laid over the shorter, which makes the tail appear narrow; they are all pointed at the tip, and the extremity of the shaft is worn as in the woodpeckers; but being less stiff than in these birds, it exceeds the wings twelve lines: the wings consist of seventeen quills; what is generally reckoned the first, and which is very short, ought not to be reckoned among the quills.

The *œsophagus*, two inches; the intestines, six; the gizzard muscular, lined with a membrane which is not easily detached, and contained portions of insects, but not a single

* Brisson, Willughby, and Linnæus reckon only ten quills; but their subjects must have been incomplete, for I have counted twelve, as well as Pennant and Mœhring.

pebble or fragment of a stone : there were slight traces of a *cæcum*, but no gall bladder. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Common Creeper, *Certhia Familiaris* : “ It is gray, below white ; its wing quills brown, ten of them marked with a white spot.” It is found likewise in America.

VARIETY OF THE CREEPER.

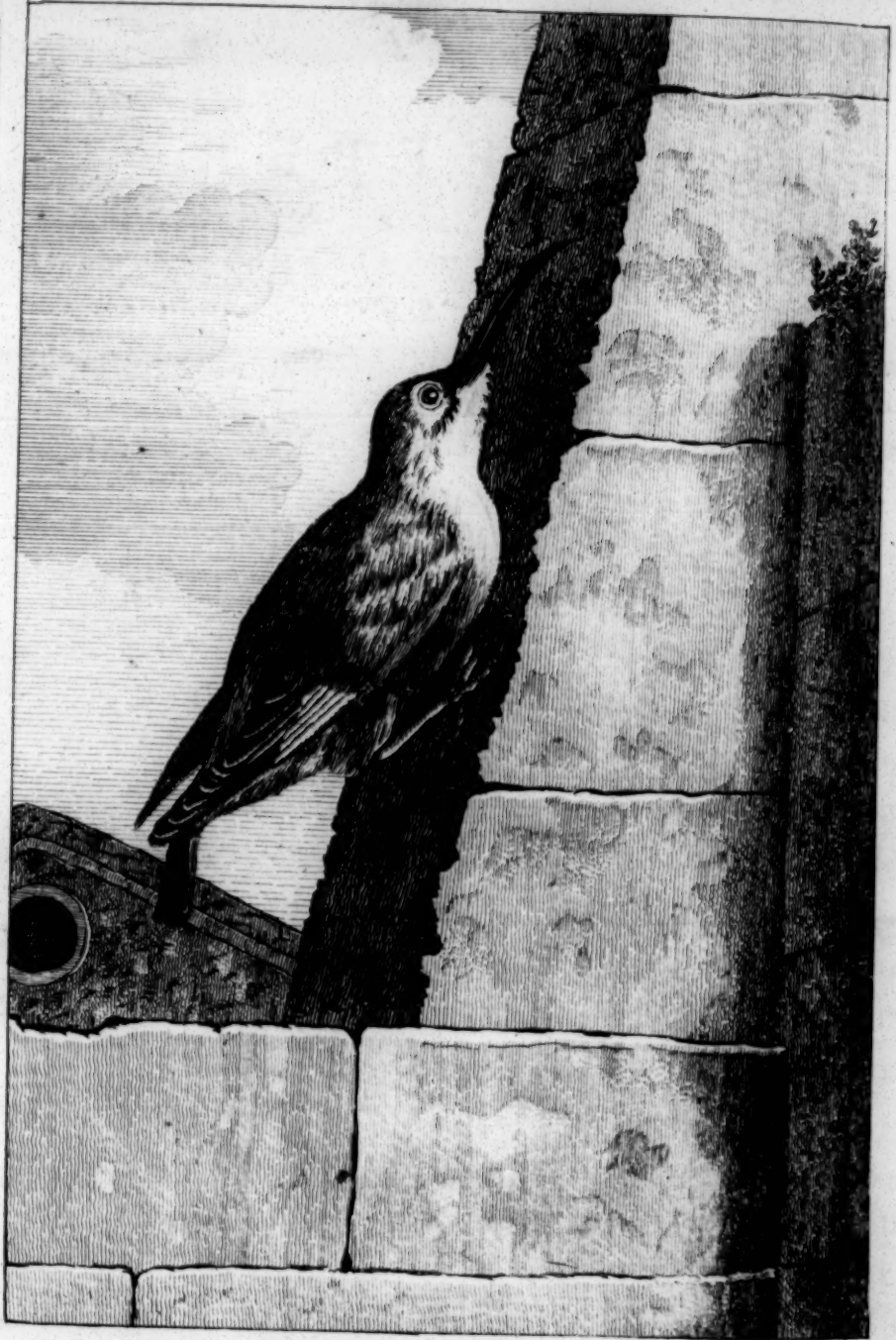
THE GREAT CREEPER. It differs only in size ; its œconomy, its plumage, and its structure are the same as in the common creeper : it seems however less shy and cautious ; for Be-lon mentions the ordinary kind as difficult to catch ; but Klein relates, that he once caught one of the great creepers running on a tree.

N^o 135



FIG. 1. THE SMALL CREEPER FROM THE ISLE OF FRANCE .
FIG. 2. THE SMALL CREEPER FROM GUYANA.

N^o 136



THE WALL CREEPER.

THE

WALL CREEPER.

Le Grimpereau de Muraille, *Buff.*

Certhia Muraria, *Linn. Gmel. & Scop.*

Certhia Muralis, *Briss.*

Picus Murarius, *Ray, Will. & Kram.*

The Wall-creeper, or Spider-catcher, *Will. & Edw.**

ALL the motions that the preceding performs on trees, this performs on walls; it lodges there, and there it climbs, hunts, and breeds: by walls, I mean not only those built by man, but those formed by nature, the huge perpendicular rocks†. Kramer remarks, that these birds prefer the haunts of the tombs, and deposit their eggs in human skulls. They fly flapping their wings like the lapwing; and, though they are larger than the common creepers, they are equally lively and active.

* In German, *Mauer-specht* (wall-spight), *Kletten-specht* (creeper-spight): in Danish, *Scopoli*: in Polish, *Dzieciot Murowy*.

† In Turin it is called the *mountain woodpecker*; and Schwenckfeld says, that it is commonly seen in citadels built on mountains.

Flies, ants, and particularly spiders, are their usual food.

Belon supposed this species peculiar to Auvergne; but it occurs in Austria, Silesia, Switzerland, Poland, Lorraine, and particularly the part bordering on Germany, and even in England*, according to some, though others regard it as at least very rare. On the contrary, it is common in Italy, near Bologna and Florence; but much less frequent in Piedmont.

It is chiefly in winter that these birds appear near dwellings; and if we believe Belon, they are heard flying at a great distance in the air, descending from the mountains to lodge on the walls of cities. They keep single, or at least by two and two, like most birds that feed on insects, and though solitary, they are neither weary nor melancholy: so certain it is, that cheerfulness depends more on the original disposition than on the enlivening influence of society!

In the male, there is a black mark under the throat, which extends to the fore part of the neck, and distinguishes the sex: the upper side of the head and body is of a pleasant ash co-

* Edwards thinks, with Ray and Willughby, that it never visits England, at least he never saw it there.

lour, the under side of a deeper cast; the small superior coverts of the wings, rose colour; the great ones blackish edged with rose colour; the quills terminated with white, and bordered from their base to the middle with rose colour, which grows more dilute, and almost vanishes on the quills nearest the body; the five first marked on the inside with two spots of white more or less pure, and the nine following with a single fulvous spot; the small inferior coverts next the margin rose coloured, the others blackish; the quills of the tail blackish, the four mid ones tipt with dirty gray, and the two outer pairs with white; the bill and legs black.

In the female, the throat is whitish. A subject which I observed had, under its throat, a broad mark of light gray, which descended on the neck, and sent off a branch to each side of the head. The female described by Edwards was larger than the male described by Brisson. In general, this bird is of a size between that of the blackbird and of the sparrow.

Total length, six inches and two-thirds; the bill, fourteen lines; and sometimes twenty, according to Brisson; the tongue very pointed, broader at the base, terminated by two appendices; the *tarsus*, ten or twelve lines; the toes

disposed three before and one behind ; the mid one nine or ten lines, the hind one eleven ; and the chord of the arc formed by the nail alone is six lines ; in general all the nails are long, narrow, and hooked ; the alar extent, ten lines ; the wings consist of twenty quills, according to Edwards, and of nineteen, according to Brisson ; and both include the first, which is very short, and ought not to be reckoned a quill ; the tail twenty-one lines, consisting of twelve quills nearly equal ; it exceeds the wings six or seven lines.

Belon positively asserts, that this bird has two toes before and two behind ; but he also says, that the tail of the common creeper is short. The source of both errors is the same : that naturalist considered these birds as related to the woodpeckers, and he ascribed those characters without examining narrowly. Analogy, which so often conducts to great discoveries, frequently misleads in the detail of observation. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Wall-creeper, *Certhia Muraria* : “ It is cinereous, with a fulvous spot on the wings.”

FOREIGN

FOREIGN BIRDS

OF THE ANCIENT CONTINENT, WHICH ARE
RELATED TO THE CREEPERS.

I SHALL term these birds *Soui-mangas*, the name which they receive in Madagascar. After these, I shall range the birds of the new continent, which bear some analogy to the creepers, but whose habits and œconomy are very different; and I shall prefer the Indian appellation *guit-guit*, as more expressive than any abstract artificial term. In general the creepers, and soui-mangas, have their bill proportionally longer than the guit-guits, and their plumage at least as beautiful, and even equal to that of the most brilliant of the humming birds. The colours are the softest, the richest, the most dazzling; all the tints of green, of blue, of orange, of red, of purple, heightened by the contrast of various shades of brown and glossy black. We cannot enough admire the glow of these colours, their sparkling lustre, their endless variety, even in the dried specimens which decorate our cabinets. Nature would seem to have formed the feathers of precious stones; of the ruby, of the emerald, the amethyst, and the topaz. How enchanting, could we view the birds themselves!

their plumage in all its freshness, animated by the breath of life, embellished by all that dazzles in the magic of the prism, changing its reflections with each quick movement, and darting new colours or new flames. To study nature in her minute, as in her grand productions, we ought to contemplate her in the state of freedom, before the hand of man has interfered.

There are many foui-mangas living with the Dutch bird-catchers at the Cape of Good Hope: the only food offered is sugared water: the flies, which abound in that climate and torment Dutch cleanliness, supply the rest. These birds are alert in seizing them, and none escape that enter their volery. This additional food seems necessary to their support: for they soon die on board ships, where there are fewer insects. The Viscount Querhoënt, to whom we are indebted for these remarks, could never keep them alive above three weeks.

I.

THE SOUI-MANGA.

Certhia Soui-Manga, Gmel.

Certhia Madagascarenfis Violacea, Briss.

The Violet Creeper, Lath.

THE head, the throat, and all the anterior part, are of a fine brilliant green, with a double collar of violet and chefnut: but these colours are not uniform or permanent; the light which plays among the webs of the feathers changes incessantly its shades, from gold green to deep blue: on each side, below the shoulder, there is a spot of fine yellow: the breast is brown; the rest of the under side of the body, faint yellow; the rest of the upper side of the body, dusky olive; the great coverts and quills of the wings brown, edged with olive; those of the tail black, edged with green, except the outermost, which is partly brown gray: the following one is terminated with the same colour: the bill and legs are black.

The female is rather smaller, and much inferior in beauty: it is olive brown above, olive bordering on yellow below; in other respects similar to the male, but inferior in lustre. It is nearly the size of the common wren.

I i 4

Total

Total length, about four inches; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, above six lines; the middle toe five lines and an half, larger than the hind one; the alar extent, six inches; the tail fifteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings seven or eight lines.

WE may refer, as a variety closely related to this species, the foui-manga from the island of Luçon, which I saw in the excellent cabinet of M. Mauduit. Its neck and throat are steel coloured, with reflections of green, blue, violet, &c. and several collars, which the brilliant play of these reflections seems to multiply. We may however distinguish four that are more constant; the lower blackish violet, the next chesnut, then brown, and lastly yellow: there are two spots of yellow below the shoulders; the rest of the under side of the body is olive gray; the upper side deep green, with reflections of blue, violet, &c. and the quills of the wings, the quills and coverts of the tail, are brown of various intensity, with a greenish gloss.

Total length, a little less than four inches; the bill, ten lines; the *tarsus*, seven; the hind
nail

nail the strongest; the tail fifteen lines, and square, and exceeds the wings seven lines.

II.

THE RED-BREASTED PURPLE-CHES-
NUT SOUI-MANGA.

Le Soui-Manga Marron Pourpré à Poitrine Rouge, *Buff.*

Certhia Sperata, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Philippensis Purpurea, *Briff.*

The Red-breasted Creeper, *Buff.*

SEBA says that the song of this bird resembles that of the nightingale: the head, the throat, and the fore part of the neck, are variegated with fulvous and glossy black, changing into violet blue: the upper side of the neck and of the body, in the fore part, purplish chesnut; and, in the hind part, violet, changing into gold green: the small coverts of the wings the same; the middle ones brown, terminated with purplish chesnut; the rest of the under side of the body, olive yellow; the quills and great coverts of the wings brown, edged with rufous; the quills of the tail blackish, with steel reflections, and edged with violet, changing into gold green; the bill black above (yellow, according to

to Seba), whitish below ; the legs brown (yellowish, according to Seba), and the nails long.

The female differs from the male, being olive green above, and olive yellow below ; with the quills of the tail blackish, and the four lateral pairs tipped with gray. These birds are rather smaller than the common creepers.

Total length, four inches ; the bill, eight lines ; the *tarsus*, six ; the mid toe, five ; the hind one rather shorter ; the alar extent, six inches ; the tail an inch, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings three lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Sperata* : " It is purple ; below crimson ; its head, throat, and rump, purple."

VARIETIES of the preceding.

I. THE LITTLE CREEPER, or SOU-MAN-CA *, the little brown and white creeper, or honey thief, of Edwards, resembles so much the preceding, that I must consider it as a va-

* *Certhia Pusilla*, Linn. & Gmel.
Certhia Indica, Briss.

Specific character : " It is brown ; below white ; its eyebrows bright white ; its tail quills brown ; the outermost tipped with white."

riety

riety of age, its plumage not being formed, and only beginning to assume the reflections. It is white below, and brown above, with some reflections of copper colour: it has a brown streak between the bill and the eye, and white eyebrows: the quills of the wings are of a deeper brown than the back, and edged with lighter colours; the quills of the tail blackish, the outermost terminated with white; the bill and legs, brown. Edwards says that it is only half as large as the European creeper.

Total length, three inches and an half; the bill, eight or nine lines; the *tarsus*, five or six; the mid toe five, rather longer than the hind one; the tail thirteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings three or four lines.

2. THE CREEPER, or SOUI-MANGA*, with a violet throat and red breast, brought from New Guinea by Sonnerat. Its back, and the small quills of the wings, snuff-colour; its

- * *Certhia Senegalensis*, Linn. & Gmel.
Certhia Senegalensis Violaacea, Briss.
 The Senegal Creeper, Lath.

Specific character: "It is violet black; its top and its throat gold green; its breast crimson."

rump

rump and tail like burnished steel, and verging on greenish; and the inferior coverts of the tail are of a dirty green. It is also a native of the Philippine Islands.

III.

THE RED-BREASTED VIOLET SOUL-MANGA.

Certhia Philippina, Linn. Gmel. & Briss.
The Philippine Creeper, Lath.

ITS leading colour is violet; and on this ground the brighter tints of the anterior parts appear with advantage: on the throat and the upper side of the head is a brilliant gold green, heightened with copper reflections: on the breast and the fore part of the neck is a beautiful shining red, the only colour which is seen in those parts, when the feathers are quite regular and composed: each of the feathers, however, consists of three different colours, black at its origin, gold green at its middle, and red at its extremity; a proof (a thousand such may be adduced) that to describe the tints of the feathers is not sufficient to give an accurate idea

idea of the colours of the plumage. All the quills of the tail and of the wings, the great superior coverts of the wings, and their inferior coverts, brown : the thighs are of a mixed cast, in which the brown seems melted with the violet : the bill is black, and the legs blackish. This bird is nearly of the size of the golden-crowned wren. It is found in Senegal.

Total length, five inches ; the bill, ten lines ; the *tarsus*, seven lines ; the mid toe five lines and an half, rather longer than the hind one ; the alar extent, seven inches and one third ; the tail twenty-two lines, and composed of twelve equal quills : it exceeds the wings ten lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Philippina* : " The two middle tail quills are very long ; the body grayish, with a greenish cast, below yellowish white."

IV.

THE PURPLE SOUL-MANGA*.

IF this bird had been of a varying gold green on the head and under the throat, and red, in-

* The Purple Indian Creeper, *Edwards*. This author says that this bird has the tongue of the colibri ; that is, divided at the tip into many filaments. Edwards seems therefore not to have been well acquainted with the true structure of the tongue of the colibri.

stead of green and yellow, on the breast, it would have been almost exactly like the preceding; or, at least, it would have been more analogous than the collared soui-manga, which has not a shade of purple in its plumage. I cannot conceive why Brisson considers the latter, and the purple creeper of Edwards, as precisely the same, only with different names.

V.

THE COLLARED SOUI-MANGA.

Le Soui-Manga à Collier, *Buff.*

Certhia Chalybea, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Torquata Capitis Bonæ Spei, *Brisson.*

The Collared Creeper, *Lath.**

THIS species, which comes from the Cape of Good Hope, bears some analogy to that of the violet soui-manga: its head is likewise of a gold green, waving with rose copper; and this gold green extends over the throat, the head, and all the upper side of the body; it borders also the intermediate quills of the tail,

* Brisson, Linnæus, Gmelin, and Latham agree to refer the *Purple Indian Creeper* of Edwards to this bird.

which

which are of a glossy black; only it is not changeable on the superior coverts. The breast is marked with red, as in the violet *soui-manga*, only confined to a narrower space, and not raised so high, and forming a sort of cincture whose upper edge is contiguous to the collar of blue steel colour, waving with green, and about a line in breadth: the rest of the under side of the body is gray, with some yellow speckles on the top of the belly, and on the flanks: the quills of the wings are of a brown gray: the bill is blackish, and the legs entirely black. The bird is nearly of the size of the violet *soui-manga*, but differently proportioned.

Total length, four inches and a half; the bill, ten lines; the *tarsus*, eight lines and a half; the mid toe six lines, and nearly equal to the hind toe; the alar extent, six inches and a half; the tail eighteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeding the wings nine lines.

The female, according to Brisson, differs from the male, the under side of its body being of the same colour with the upper side, only there are yellow speckles on the flanks: according to others, it has also a red cincture, but which falls lower than in the male, and all its other colours
are

are fainter : admitting this, we may regard as the female the *soui-manga* observed at the Cape of Good Hope, by the Viscount Querhoënt, in January 1774. In that bird the throat was brown gray, variegated with green and blue; the breast decorated with a flame-coloured cincture; the rest of the under side of the body, white gray; the head and all the upper side of the body brown gray, variegated with green on the back, and with blue at the origin of the tail; the wings light brown, with a coat of gold yellow; the quills of the tail, blackish; the bill and legs, black. The Viscount subjoins, that this bird sings prettily; that it lives on insects and the juices of flowers; but that its throat is so narrow that it cannot swallow the larger common flies. Is it not then probable that this was a young bird, and that the true female of the *soui-manga* is the same with Brisson's creeper from the Cape of Good Hope*, which is uniformly of a brown gray, deeper above and lighter below, the colour which borders the tail and the wings? Their dimensions also correspond, and both are brought from the African promontory; but time and observation will ascertain the point.

* *Certhia Capensis*, *Linn.* edit. xiii.

Lastly,

Lastly, we may reckon, as a female of this species, or as one of its varieties, the Philippine creeper of Brisson*, whose plumage, uniform and without brilliancy, indicates a female, and the middle quills of whose tail are edged with a shining black, waving with gold green, like the quills of the tail of the collared foudi-manga; but, in this female, the reflections are much less bright: it is of a greenish brown above, with a sulphur cast below; the quills of the wings brown, edged with a lighter colour, and the lateral ones of the tail blackish, terminated with dirty white.

If the creepers of the East Indies, like those of America, require several years to form their plumage, and if the rich colours be not assumed till after a number of moultings, we need not be surprised that so many varieties are found.

Total length, four inches nine lines; the bill, an inch; the *tarsus*, six lines and a half; the mid toe, five lines and a half; the hind one

* *Certhia Philippina*, Linn. edit. xiii. (See art. iii. the note.) I know not on what foundation Linnæus gives to this species two long quills in the middle of the tail: if he saw an individual so formed, it must have been a young one, or an old one in moult, or a female. But I am disposed to think that Linnæus never saw this bird, since he does not describe it, and adds nothing to what others have said.

almost as long; the alar extent, six inches and a quarter; the tail fifteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and projecting five lines beyond the wings. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Chalybea*: "It is of a glossy green, its breast red, a steel-coloured bar before."

VI.

THE PURPLE-BREASTED OLIVE SOUI-MANGA.

Lè Soui-manga Olive à Gorge Pourpre, *Buff.*

Certhia Zeylonica, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Philippensis Olivacea, *Briss.*

The Ceylonefe Creeper, *Lath.*

THE most conspicuous colour of its plumage is a deep and very brilliant violet, which spreads below the neck, and on the throat: the rest of the under side of its body is yellow; all the upper side, including the superior coverts of the wings, of a dull olive, and the same colour borders the quills of the tail and of the wings, and also their great coverts, of which
brown

brown is the prevailing colour; the bill is black, and the legs deep cinereous.

Poivre brought this bird from the Philippines; it is nearly of the size of the common wren.

Total length, four inches; the bill, nine or ten lines; the *tarsus*, six lines; the mid toe five lines; the hind toe rather shorter; the alar extent, six inches; the tail fourteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings six lines. [A]

If the bill were not shorter and the tail longer, I should regard the Madagascar creeper of Brisson* as the female of the foui-manga of this article; it is at least an imperfect or degenerated variety: all the upper part of the body, including the coverts of the wings, is of a dull olive green, but darkest on the crown of the head, and the same colour borders also the quills of the wings and of the tail: all these quills are brown; the orbits are whitish; the

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Zeylonica*: "It has a green cap; its back is ferruginous, its belly yellow, its throat and rump azure."

* *Certhia Olivacea*, Linn. & Gmel.

The Olive Creeper. Lath.

Specific character: "It is olive, below brown, its orbits whitish."

throat and the under side of the body, dun gray; the legs entirely brown: the bill is blackish. It is nearly as large as the common creeper.

Total length, four inches; the bill, six or seven lines; the *tarsus*, seven lines; the middle toe five lines and a half, and the hind one rather shorter; the alar extent, six inches and a half; the tail nineteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings eight lines.

There is a bird in the Philippine Islands which may also be considered as a variety of the same species*: the under side of the body is of a pretty shade of dun gray, and the upper side yellowish; the breast darker: there is a deep violet bar, which rises from the throat and descends along the neck: the coverts of the wings are of a steel colour, and the same borders the quills of the tail, the rest of which are blackish; the lateral ones are terminated with dirty white; the quills of the wings, brown; the bill stronger than in the other creepers, and the tongue terminated by two threads, according to Linnæus;

* *Certhia Currucaria*, Linn. & Gmel.

Certhia Philippensis Grisea, Briss.

The Gray Creeper, Lath.

Specific character: "It is olive, below yellowish, its tail quills equal."

the

the bill and legs black: it is smaller than the common creeper.

Total length, four inches and two-thirds; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, six lines and a half; the mid toe, five lines and a half; the hind toe rather shorter; the alar extent, six inches and a quarter; the tail fifteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and projecting five lines beyond the wings.

* Lastly, we may reckon the little creeper from the Philippines as a secondary variety of the preceding. It is always brown gray above, and yellow below; it has a violet collar; the quills of the wings are brown gray, like the upper side of the body; those of the tail are deeper brown; the two outermost pairs are terminated with dirty white; the bill and the legs are blackish. This bird is much smaller than the former, which it resembles much in regard to plumage, and perhaps it is the least of all the soui-mangas known in the ancient continent; which affords a presumption that it is a young one.

Total length, three inches and two-thirds; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, six lines; the

* *Certhia Jugularis*, Linn. & Gmel.

Certhia Philippensis Minor, Briss.

Specific character: "It is grayish, below yellow, its throat violet, the two outermost quills of the tail tip with yellow."

mid toe four lines and a half; the hind one rather shorter; the alar extent, five inches and two-thirds; the tail fifteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and projects five lines beyond the wings.

VII.

THE ANGALA DIAN, *Buff.*

Certhia-Lotenia, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Madagascarensis Viridis, *Briss.*

Loten's Creeper, *Lath.*

THIS bird has also a collar, a line and a half broad, and of a bright scarlet; the small superior coverts of the same hue; the throat, the head, the neck, all the upper side of the body, and the middle coverts of the wings, of a brilliant gold green: there is a streak of gloss black between the nostril and the eye; the breast, the belly, and all the under side of the body, of the same black, and also the quills of the tail and of the wings, and the greater coverts of the wings: but these large coverts, and the quills of the tail, are bordered with gold green: the bill is black, and so are the legs. [A]

[A] Specific character: "It is blue, with a gold red stripe on its breast; its straps black."

Adanson

Adanson suspects that the bird which Brisson considers as the hen angala is only a young one of the same species before its first moulting. "This seems to appear," he subjoins, "from the number of birds of this kind, and very similar to it, which are found at Senegal, and of which the females are exactly like the males: but the young ones have a great intermixture of gray, which they lose not till they drop their feathers *."

The angala is almost as large as the epicurean warbler: it gives its nest the shape of a cup, like the canary and chaffinch, and scarcely uses any other materials than the down of plants. It lays generally five or six eggs: but it is often driven from its hatch by a sort of large voracious spider, which seizes the brood, and sucks the blood †.

The bird which Brisson regards as a female, and Adanson as a young one, is of a dirty white,

* I doubt not that M. Adanson saw at Senegal numbers of females like their males, since he avers it; but we must not thence draw any general rule for all the birds of Africa and of Asia: the gold pheasant of China, the peacock, many species of turtles, of shrikes, of parrakeets, &c. found in Africa, are proofs to the contrary.

† Supplement de l'Encyclopedie, au mot *Angala*.

K k 4

interspersed

interspersed with black spots on the breast, and the rest of the under side of the body, instead of an uniform glossy black; and its wings and tail are also of a less brilliant black.

Total length, five inches and a quarter; the bill, fourteen lines; the *tarsus*, eight lines; the middle toe six lines and a half, and larger than the hind one; the alar extent, eight lines; the tail nineteen lines, and consisting of twelve equal quills: it exceeds the wings six or seven lines.

VIII.

THE IRIS SOUI-MANGA.

Le Soui-Manga de Toutes Couleurs, *Buff.*

Certhia Omnicolor, *Linn. & Gmel.*

The Green-gold Creeper, *Lath.*

OUR knowledge of this bird is very scanty: it comes from Ceylon: its plumage is green, tinged with all the rich colours, among which that of gold seems to predominate. Seba says, that its young often become the prey of large spiders; a danger to which the *angala* also is liable, and even all the small birds that breed in climates

climates inhabited by those formidable insects, and have not skill sufficient to guard the nest from their intrusions.

If we judge from the figure which Seba has given, this bird is seven or eight inches in total length; its bill, about eighteen lines; the tail, two inches and a quarter: in short, it appears to be the largest of the soui-mangas. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Omnicolor*: "It is green, mixed with all sorts of colours."

IX.

THE RED-BREASTED GREEN SOUI-MANGA.

Le Soui-Manga Vert à Gorge Rouge, *Buff.*

Certhia Afra, *Linn.* & *Gmel.*

The Red-breasted Green Creeper, *Edw.*

The African Creeper, *Lath.*

SONNERAT, who brought this bird from the Cape of Good Hope, tells us that it sings as well as the nightingale, and that its voice is even softer. Its throat is of a fine carmine; its belly, white; the head, the neck, and the anterior part of the wings, of a fine gold green, and

and silvery; the rump, sky blue; the wings and tail, snuff brown; the bill and legs, black.

Total length, nearly four inches and two-thirds; the bill, an inch; the tail eighteen lines, and exceeds the wings about thirteen lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Afra*: "It is green, its belly white, its breast and rump sky blue."

X.

THE BLACK, WHITE, AND RED INDIAN CREEPER, OR SOUI-MANGA.

Certhia Cruentata, Linn. & Gmel.

Certhia Bengalensis, Briss.

The Red-spotted Creeper, Lath.

THIS is the appellation which Edwards bestows on this bird, which is nearly of the size of the crowned wren. The white is spread on the throat, and all the lower part, without exception; the black, on the upper part: but on this dark ground, which is slightly glossed with blue, there are scattered four beautiful spots of bright red; the first on the crown of the head, the second behind the neck, the third on the back, and the fourth on the superior coverts of the

the tail. The quills of the tail and of the wings, the bill and the legs, are black.

Total length, three inches and a quarter; the bill, five or six lines; the *tarsus*, five lines; the mid toe, four or five lines; the hind toe rather shorter; the tail about an inch, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeding the wings by five or six lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Cruentata*: "It is dark blue; below white; its top, its neck, its back, and its rump, red."

XI.

THE BOURBON SOUI-MANGA.

Le Soui-Manga de l'Isle Bourbon, *Buff*.

I ASSIGN no particular name to this bird, because I suspect that it is either a female, or a young male whose plumage is not fully ripened. It appears the nearest related to the proper soui-manga, or violet creeper. The upper side of the head and body, greenish brown; the rump, olive yellow; the throat, and all the upper side of the body, of a confused gray, which assumes a yellowish cast near the tail; the flanks, rufous; the quills of the tail, blackish;

ish; those of the wings blackish, edged with a lighter colour; the bill and legs black.

The dimensions are nearly the same with those of the violet creeper.

THE

LONG-TAILED SOUI-MANGAS.

WE are acquainted with only three birds in the ancient continent to which this epithet belongs. Seba mentions also a female of that kind, which had not the long tail; whence it would appear that, in some species at least, this is the attribute of the male. And might not several males already described have attained the same character at the proper age or season? Many subjects which have been figured and engraved, are perhaps only females, or young males, or even old ones in moult, when this decoration is lost. For there is no difference between the conformation of the long-tailed soui-mangas and the short-tailed ones; and their plumage glows with the same colours.

I. THE

I.

THE LONG-TAILED VIOLET-HOOD-
ED SOUI-MANGA.

Le Soui-Manga à Longue Queue & à Capuchin Violet, *Buff.*

Certhia Violacea, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Longicauda Minor Capitis Bonæ Spei, *Briff.*

The Violet-headed Creeper, *Lath.*

I SEE no reason why this bird should have been called the little creeper, unless that the two middle quills of the tail are not so long as in the two others; but, if we overlook the tail, this will be found not the smallest of the three. It resembles so strongly the purple chesnut soui-manga, or red-breasted creeper, that had it not been larger, and its tail differently formed, I should have reckoned them both of the same species, the one having lost its tail in moulting. The Viscount Querhoënt saw it in its native climate, near the Cape of Good Hope: he informs us that it constructs its nest artfully, and uses no other materials but a silky bur.

The head, the top of the back, and the throat, are of a bright violet, glossed with green; the fore part of the neck also bright violet, but glossed with blue: the rest of the upper side of the

the body is of an olive brown, which colour borders the great coverts of the wings, their quills, and those of the tail, which are all brown, more or less deep; the rest of the under side of the body orange, which is more vivid on the anterior parts, and spreads softening into the distant parts. The bird is in a slight degree larger than the common creeper.

Total length, above six inches; the bill, eleven lines and an half; the legs, seven lines and an half; the mid toe six lines, and a very little longer than the hind one; the alar extent, six inches and one-third; the tail three inches, and consisting of ten lateral tapered quills, and two intermediate ones, which project twelve or fourteen lines beyond the lateral ones, and twenty-seven lines beyond the wings: these two intermediate ones are narrower than the lateral ones, but broader than in the following species. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Violacea*: "The two middle quills of the tail are very long: the body is of a glossy violet; the breast and belly yellow."

II.

THE LONG-TAILED SOUI-MANGA

OF A GLOSSY GOLD GREEN.

Le Soui-Manga Vert Doré Changeant, à Longue
Queue, *Buff.*

Certhia Pulchella, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Longicauda Senegalensis, *Briss.*

Sylvia Versicolor, *Klein.*

Avis Amboinensis Discolor, *Seba.*

The Beautiful Creeper, *Lath.*

THE breast is red ; all the rest of a pretty deep gold green, but glowing and undulating with rose copper ; the quills of the tail blackish, edged with the same green ; those of the tail, and their great coverts, brown ; the lower belly mixed with a little white ; the bill black, and the legs blackish.

This species comes from Senegal. In the female the upper side is greenish brown ; the under side yellowish, variegated with brown ; the inferior coverts of the tail white, sprinkled with brown and blue ; the rest as in the male, except a few shades.

Total length, seven inches and two lines ; the bill, eight lines and an half ; the *tarsus*, seven lines ; the mid toe five lines and an half, longer
4 than

than the last; the alar extent, six inches and a quarter; the tail four inches three lines, consisting of ten lateral quills, nearly equal, and two intermediate ones, which are very long and narrow, and which project two inches eight lines beyond these, and three inches four lines beyond the wings. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Pulchella*: "The two middle quills of the tail are very yellow, its body glossy green, its breast red."

III.

THE GREAT GREEN LONG-TAILED SOUI-MANGA.

Le Grand Soui-Manga Vert à Longue Queue, *Buff.*

Certhia Famosa, *Linn.* & *Gmel.*

Certhia Longicauda Capitis Bonæ Spei, *Briss.*

The Famous Creeper, *Lath. Syn.*

THIS bird inhabits the Cape of Good Hope, where it was observed and kept several weeks by the Viscount Querhoënt, who describes it in the following terms: "It is of the size of the linnet; its bill, which is a little incurvated, is
fourteen

fourteen lines long ; it is black, and also the feet, which are furnished with long nails, particularly the middle and hinder ones: the eyes are black ; the upper and under sides of the body, of a very fine brilliant green (glossed with rose copper, Brisson adds), with some feathers of gold yellow under the wings ; the great feathers of the wings and of the tail, of a fine black, glossed with violet ; the filament of the tail, which is rather more than three inches, is edged with green." Brisson adds, that on each side, between the bill and the eye, there is a streak of velvet black.

In this species the female has also a long tail, or rather a long filament at its tail, but which is shorter, however, than in the male, for it projects only two inches and a few lines beyond the lateral quills : the upper side of the body and of the head greenish brown, mixed with some feathers of a fine green ; the rump green ; the great quills of the wings and of the tail almost black, and also the filament or two intermediate quills : the under side of the body is yellowish, with some green feathers on the breast. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Famosa* : "The two middle quills of its tail are very long ; its body of a glossy green, yellow under its pinions, the straps black."

IV.

THE CREEPER-BILLED RED BIRD.

L'Oiseau Rouge à Bec de Grimpereau, *Buff.*

Certhia Mexicana, *Gmel.*

Trochilus Coccineus, *Linn.* edit. 6th.

Certhia Mexicana Rubra, *Briss.*

Avicula Mexicana, *Klein & Seba.*

The Red Creeper, *Lath.*

THIS and the three following have been reckoned American birds, and would therefore range with the guit-guits; but as from their conformation, and particularly the length of their bill, they are more related to the foui-mangas, we have placed them between the two tribes. We adopt this plan the more readily, as the climate of these birds rests solely upon the authority of Seba, which naturalists know has little weight, and ever insufficient to balance against the force of analogy. We shall not, however, hurt the received prejudices by changing the name; though that of foui-manga would suit them better.

Red is the prevailing colour in the plumage of this bird, but it has different shades; for the crown of the head is lighter and more brilliant, and that on the rest of the body is deeper. There are some exceptions, however: for the throat
and

and the fore part of the neck are green; the quills of the tail and of the wings are terminated with blueish; the thighs, the bill, and the legs, of a light yellow.

Its voice is said to be pleasant. It is a little larger than our creeper.

Total length, about four inches and a half; the bill, ten lines; the *tarsus*, six lines; the mid toe five lines, rather longer than the hind one; the tail fourteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and projecting about seven lines beyond the wings.

I consider as a variety of this species the black-headed red bird, which Seba and some others after him have referred to New Spain. Its proportions are exactly like those of the preceding: the only apparent difference is in the length of the bill, which is ten lines in the preceding, and only seven in this, which would occasion a difference in the total length. But these measures are taken from the figure, and therefore liable to error; especially as the original observer, Seba, seems more struck with its long bill than with that of the other. It is very probable that the designer or engraver took the liberty of shortening it; and an alteration of three or four lines would bring the two birds to an almost perfect identity. There are some

L 1 2

differ-

differences in the plumage, which alone induced me to distinguish it as a variety.

Its head is of a fine black, and the superior coverts of the wings, gold yellow; all the rest is light red, except the quills of the tail and wings, which are of a deeper shade. The dimensions precisely as in the preceding bird. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Mexicana*: "It is red; its throat green, the tip of its wing quills blueish."

V.

THE CREEPER-BILLED BROWN BIRD.

L'Oiseau Brun à Bec de Grimpereau, *Buff.*

Certhia Gutturalis, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Brasiliensis Nigricans, *Briss.*

The Green-faced Creeper, *Lath.*

THE bill of this bird is two-sevenths of the length of the body: the throat and face are of a fine gold green; the fore part of the neck of a bright red; the small coverts of the wings of a brilliant violet; the great coverts and the quills of the wings and of the tail are brown, tinged

THE CREEPER-BILLED BROWN BIRD. 517

tinged with rufous; the middle coverts of the wings, and all the rest both of the upper and under sides of the body, blackish brown; the bill and the legs black.

This bird is not larger than the epicurean warbler.

Total length, five inches one-third; the bill, one inch; the *tarsus*, seven lines and a half; the mid toe six inches, and larger than the hind one; the alar extent, eight inches; the tail twenty-one lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeding the wings about seven lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Gutturalis*: "It is blackish, its throat glossy green, its breast purple."

VI.

THE CREEPER-BILLED PURPLE BIRD.

L'Oiseau Pourpré à Bec de Grimpereau, *Buff.*

Certhia Purpurea, *Gmel.*

Certhia Virginiana Purpurea, *Briss. & Gerini.*

Avis Virginiana Poenicea, *Seba & Klein.*

The Purple Creeper, *Lath.*

ALL its plumage, without exception, is of a beautiful uniform purple. Seba applies arbitrarily the name *atototl*, which, in Mexican, signifies an aquatic bird; though the present is entirely of a different class. Seba asserts, I know not on what authority, that it sings pleasantly: it is rather larger than the epicurean warbler.

Total length, four inches and a half; the bill, above an inch; the *tarsus*, six lines and a half; the mid toe five lines and a half, rather longer than the hind toe; the tail fourteen lines, and exceeds the wings seven lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Purpurea*: "It is entirely purple."

THE

AMERICAN GUIT-GUITS.

GUIT-GUIT is an American name, applied to one or two of this tribe, containing the creepers of the New Continent : I shall use it as a generic appellation. I have already noticed some differences that obtain between them and the humming birds : I may add that they neither fly in the same manner, nor sip the nectar of flowers. Yet the creoles at Cayenne frequently confound them ; and we should be therefore aware of this circumstance in reading the relations of travellers.

I am assured that the guit-guits of Cayenne never climb upon trees ; that they live in flocks with those of their own kind, and also with other birds, such as the little tanagres, nut-hatches, picucullas, &c. and that they feed not only upon insects, but upon fruits and even buds.

I.

THE BLACK AND BLUE GUIT-GUIT,
*Buff.**Certhia Cyanea*, Linn. & Gmel.*Certhia Brasiliensis Cærulea*, Briss.*Guira-cœreba*, Ray & Will.

The Black and Blue Creeper, Edw. & Lath.

THE face of this beautiful bird is of a brilliant sea green : there is a bar on the eyes of velvet black ; the rest of the head, the throat, and all the under part of the body (without exception, according to Edwards), the lower part of the back, and the superior coverts of the tail, of an ultramarine blue, which is the only colour that appears when the feathers are regularly disposed, though each has three colours, according to the remark of Brisson, brown at the base, green in the middle, and blue at the extremity ; the top of the back, the part of the neck contiguous to the back, and the tail, velvet black : what appears of the wings, when they are closed, is of the same black, except a blue bar, which crosses their coverts obliquely : the inner side of the quills of the wings, and their inferior coverts, are of a fine yellow ; so that the wings, which seem entirely black when at rest,

rest, appear variegated with black and yellow when displayed, or in motion. The inferior coverts of the tail are of a dull black (and not blue, as Brisson represents): the bill is black, and the legs sometimes red, sometimes orange, sometimes yellow, and occasionally whitish.

It appears from this description, that the colours of the plumage are subject to vary in different specimens: in some, the throat is mixed with brown; in others it is black. In general, the distribution of the black seems the most irregular: the blue assumes sometimes a violet tinge.

Marcgrave observed, that the eyes are black; that the tongue is terminated by many filaments; that the feathers on the back are silky; and that the bird is nearly as large as the chaffinch. He saw it in Brazil; but it occurs also in Guiana and Cayenne. In the female the wings have a coat of yellowish gray.

Total length, four inches and a quarter; the bill, eight or nine lines; the *tarsus*, six or seven; the mid toe six, and a very little longer than the hind toe; the alar extent, six inches and three quarters; the tail fifteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeding the wings three or four lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Cyanea*: "It is sky blue; a bar on the eyes; the shoulders, the wings, and the tail, black; its legs brown."

VARIETY of the BLACK AND BLUE GUIT-GUIT*.

THIS variety is found in Cayenne : it differs from the preceding only in the shades of the plumage : the head is of a fine blue : there is a bar on the eyes of a velvet black : the throat, the wings, and the tail, are of the same black : all the rest is of a shining blue, verging upon violet ; the bill black, and the legs yellow : the blue feathers which cover the body, are of three colours, the same as in the preceding.

With regard to size, it is rather smaller, and the tail especially appears shorter ; which would imply that it is either a young bird, or an adult that has not recovered from moulting ; but the alar extent is greater, which precludes this supposition.

It constructs its nest with much art : the outside consists of coarse straw, and stiff stalks of herbs ; the inside of softer materials : the shape resembles that of a retort : it is suspended from

- * *Certhia Cærulea*, Linn. & Gmel.
- Certhia Cayanensis Cærulea*, Briss.
- The *Certhia* of Guiana, Bancroft.
- The Blue Creeper, Edw. & Lath.

Specific character : " It is sky blue ; a bar on its eyes ; its throat, the quills of its wings and tail, black." the

the end of a pliant branch, and the aperture faces the ground. The bird enters the neck, and creeps into the belly of the retort, which is its proper nest. By this contrivance, the hatch is guarded against the visits of spiders, lizards, and other intruders. Wherever weak animals subsist, unprotected by man, we may infer that they are industrious.

The author of the Essay on the Natural History of Guiana* mentions a bird very similar to the preceding, only its tail is of an uncommon length. Must we reckon this a male in its full perfection, or another variety of the same species?

* Bancroft. T.

II. THE

II.

THE BLACK-HEADED GREEN AND
BLUE GUIT-GUIT, *Buff.*

Certhia-Spiza, Linn. & Gmel.

Certhia Americana Viridis Atricapilla, Briss.

Avicula Americana Altera, Seba.

The Black-headed Creeper, *Lath.*

THE plumage of this American bird consists of three or four colours, which are disposed in distinct masses, without any intermixture or shading: a velvet black on the throat and head only; deep blue under the body; bright green on all the upper side, including the tail and the wings; but the tail is of a deeper shade: the inferior coverts of the wings are cinereous brown, edged with green, and the bill is whitish.

Total length, five inches and a quarter; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, the same length; the middle toe seven lines, rather longer than the hind toe; the tail eighteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeding the wings eight or ten lines; the alar extent unknown.

It is nearly as large as the chaffinch. We are not certain in what part of America it occurs:

curs : but most probably it inhabits the same regions with the two preceding. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia-Spiza* : "It is green ; its head and wing quills are blackish."

VARIETIES of the BLACK-HEADED GREEN AND BLUE GUIT-GUIT.

* I. THE BLACK-HEADED GREEN GUIT-GUIT. The head is black, as in the preceding, but not the throat : it is of a beautiful green, as are all the upper and under sides of the body, including the superior coverts of the wings : their quills are blackish, and also those of the tail, but all bordered with green, the only colour that appears when the parts are at rest : the inferior coverts of the wings are brown cinereous, bordered also with green : the bill is yellowish at its base, blackish above,

* *Certhia-Spiza*, var. *Lath. Ind.*

Certhia Brasiliensis Viridis Aticapilla, *Briss.*

Sylvia Viridis Capite Nigro, *Klein.*

The Green Black-capped Flycatcher, *Edw.*

The Black-capped Creeper, *Lath. Syn.*

whitish

whitish below, and the legs are of the same deep lead colour. The relative dimensions are the same as in the preceding bird, only the tail is rather longer, and exceeds the wings eleven lines; the alar extent is seven inches and an half.

* 2. The WHITE-THROATED GREEN AND BLUE GUIT-GUIT. The blue is spread on the head, and the small superior coverts of the wings: the throat is white: all the rest of the plumage the same as in the preceding variety, except that in general the green is uniformly lighter, and on the breast are scattered a few spots of a deeper green: the bill is blackish above, white below, according to Brisson; and, on the contrary, whitish above, and deep cinereous below, according to Edwards: the legs are yellowish.

With regard to the dimensions, they are precisely the same as in the preceding bird; and this conformity has made Edwards suspect, that the two belong to the same species.

- * *Certhia-Spiza*, var. 2. *Lath. Ind.*
- Certhia Brasiliensis Viridis*, *Briss.*
- Sylvia Viridis Capite Cyaneo*, *Klein.*
- The Blue-headed Green Flycatcher, *Edw.*
- The Blue-headed Creeper, *Lath. Syn.*

3. THE ALL-GREEN GUIT-GUIT! All the under side of the body is deep green, tinged with blueish, except the rump, which, as well as the throat, and the under side of the body, is of a lighter green, tinged with yellowish: the brown of the wings is here black: the bill and legs are blackish; but there is a little flesh colour near the base of the lower mandible.

This bird is found in Cayenne, and in Spanish America: it is of the same size with the preceding, and nearly the same proportions, except that the bill is rather shorter, and more similar to that of the sugar-birds.

III.

THE SPOTTED GREEN GUIT-GUIT.

Certhia Cayana, Linn. Gmel. & Briss.

The Cayenne Creeper, Lath.

THIS bird is smaller than the green guit-guits which we have just described, and it is differently proportioned. The upper side of the head and body of a fine green, though some-

* *Certhia Spiza*, var. 3. Lath. Ind.

The All-Green Creeper, Edw. & Lath.

what

what brown (variegated with blue in some subjects) : on the throat is a mark of light rufous, enclosed on both sides by two blue bars, which are very narrow, and accompany the lower mandible : the cheeks are variegated with green and whitish ; the breast and the under side of the body marked with small streaks of three different colours, some blue*, others green, and others white ; the inferior coverts of the tail, yellowish ; the intermediate quills, green ; the lateral ones blackish, edged and terminated with green ; the quills of the wings the same ; the bill black ; between the bill and the eye is a light rufous spot, and the legs are gray.

In the female, the colours are less decided, and the green of the upper side of the body is lighter : it has no rusty cast, neither on the throat, nor between the bill and the eye, and not a single shade of blue in the whole of its plumage. I observed one in which the two bars that accompany the lower mandible, were green.

Total length, four inches and two lines ;

* In the individual described by M. Koelreuter, there was no blue ; but the throat was yellow, as well as the space between the bill and the eye : I should suppose it to be a young male, and not an adult female.

the

the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, six lines; the mid toe the same length, and exceeding that of the hind toe; the alar extent, six inches and three quarters; the tail fifteen lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and projects five lines beyond the wings. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Cayana*: "It is shining green; below striped with white; its tail quills green; the lateral ones blackish within."

 IV.
THE VARIEGATED GUIT-GUIT, *Buff.*

Certhia Variegata, *Gmel.*

Certhia Americana Varia, *Briss.*

Sylvia Versicolor, *Klein.*

The Variegated Creeper, *Lath.*

NATURE seems to have taken pleasure in decorating the plumage of this bird with variety and choice of colours: bright red on the top of the head; fine blue on the back of the head; blue and white on the cheeks; two shades of yellow on the throat, the breast, and all the under side of the body; yellow, blue, white, blackish, on the upper side of the body, including the wings, the tail, and their superior

VOL. V,

M m

coverts.

coverts. It is said to be an American bird; but the part of that continent which it commonly inhabits is not assigned. It is nearly as large as the chaffinch.

Total length, five inches; the bill, nine lines; the *tarsus*, six lines; the mid toe seven lines, rather longer than the hind toe; the nails pretty long; the tail seventeen lines, and exceeds the wings five or six lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Variiegata*: "It is variegated with blue, black, yellow and white; below saffron; its top red; the back of its head blue."

V.

THE BLACK AND VIOLET
GUIT-GUIT, *Buff.*

Certhia Brasiliiana, *Gmel.*

Certhia Brasiliensis Violacea, *Briss.*

The Black and Violet Creeper, *Lath.*

THE throat and fore side of the neck are of a shining violet; the lower part of the back, the superior coverts of the tail, and the small ones of the wings, are violet, bordering on steel

THE BLACK AND VIOLET GUIT-GUIT. 531

steel colour; the upper part of the neck and back, of a fine velvet black; the belly, the lower coverts of the tail and of the wings, and the great superior coverts of the wings, of a dull black; the top of the head, of a fine gold green; the breast, purple chesnut; the bill blackish, and the legs brown. This bird is found in Brazil: it is of the size of the crowned wren.

Total length, three inches five lines; the bill, seven lines; the *tarsus*, five lines and a half; the mid toe five lines, rather longer than the hind one; the alar extent, four inches and a quarter; the tail thirteen lines and a half, consisting of twelve equal quills, and exceeds the wings five or six lines. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Brasiliensis*: "It is black; its top, gold green; its rump and its throat, violet; its breast, bay purple."

VI.

THE SUGAR-BIRD.

Le Sucrier, *Buff.*

Certhia Flaveola, *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia, seu *Saccharivora Jamaicensis*, *Briss.*

The Black and Yellow Creeper, *Lath.*

ITS ordinary food is the sweet viscous juice of the sugar cane, which it sucks through the cracks of the stalk: so I have been informed by a traveller who resided many years at Cayenne. In this respect it resembles the humming birds; it is also exceedingly small; and from the relative length of its wings, it approaches that of Cayenne, though it differs by the length of its legs and the shortness of its tail. I suspect that the sugar-birds likewise eat insects, though this has not been mentioned.

In a male from Jamaica, the throat, the neck, and the upper side of the head and body, were of a fine black, but with some exceptions; for there were white eyebrows, traces of white on the great quills of the wings, from their origin to more than half their length, and also on the

the tips of all the lateral quills of the tail; the edge of the wings, the rump, the flanks and the belly, of a fine yellow, which spreads and grows dilute on the lower belly, and becomes whitish on the inferior coverts of the tail.

The species is diffused through Martinico, Cayenne, and St. Domingo, &c. but the plumage varies a little in these different islands, though nearly in the same parallel. In the sugar-bird of Cayenne*, the head is blackish; there are two white eyebrows, which extending meet behind the neck: the throat is light ash gray; the back and the superior coverts of the wings of a deeper ash gray; the quills of the wings and of the tail ash gray, bordered with cinereous; the anterior part of the wings bordered with lemon yellow; the rump yellow; the breast and the under side of the body also yellow; but this colour is mixed with gray on the lower belly: the bill is black, and the legs blueish: the tail projects a very little beyond the wings.

This bird has a very delicate note, *zi, zi*, and, like the humming bird, also sucks the juice of plants. Though I have been strongly assured that the one which I have described is a male,

* The negroes and creoles of St. Domingo call it *Sicouri*.

I must

I must own that it bears great resemblance to the female from Jamaica*, only this has a whitish throat, and a cinereous cast where the other was blackish; the eyelids yellowish white; the anterior part of the wings edged with white, and the rump of the same colour with the back; the five pairs of lateral feathers of the tail terminated with white, according to Edwards; the single exterior pair, according to Brisson: lastly, the greatest quills of the wings white, from their origin more than half their length, as in the male.

Sloane says, that this bird has a very short but pleasant warble; but that was probably the female, and the male would still have a sweeter air. The same observer, who dissected one of these birds, tells us that the throat and gizzard were small, the latter not muscular, and lined by an inadhesive membrane; the liver bright red, and the intestines rolled into many circumvolutions.

I have seen a sugar-bird from St. Domingo, in which the bill and the tail were rather shorter, the eyebrows white, and on the throat a sort of whitish mark, which was larger than in the

* *Certhia Flaveola*, var. 1. *Linn. & Gmel.*

Certhia Martinicana, seu *Saccharivora*, *Brisson.*

The Yellow-bellied Creeper, *Edw.*

above female ; in all other respects it was exactly similar.

Lastly, Linnæus regards the Bahama creeper of Brisson as the same with the sugar-birds of Martinico and Jamaica*. Its plumage is indeed very similar ; all the upper side is brown, including even the quills of the wings and of the tail ; the latter are whitish beneath ; the throat is light yellow ; the anterior edge of the wings, their inferior coverts, and the rest of the under side of the body, of a deeper yellow as far as the lower belly, which is of the same brown as the back. Further, this bird is larger than the other sugar-birds ; so that it may be regarded as a variety of size and even of climate. The following are the dimensions compared :

Bahama Sugar Bird.			Jamaica Sugar Bird.		
	Inches.	Lines.		Inches.	Lines.
Total length - - -	4	8	—	3	7
Do. not including the tail - - -	0	32	—	0	27
The bill - - - - -	0	6	—	0	6
The <i>tarsus</i> - - - - -	0	6½	—	0	7
The middle toe - - - - -	0	5½	—	0	6
The hind toe - - - - -	0	5 and more	—	0	4 or 5
The alar extent - - - - -	7	0	—	unknown	
The tail consisting of 12 quills	2	0	—	1	4
Its excess above the wings - - -	0	15 or 16	—	0	5 or 6

* *Certhia Flaveola*, var. 2. *Linn. & Gmel.*

The Bahama Titmouse, *Catesby*.

The name *luscinia*, which Klein bestows on it, shews that he regarded it as a singing bird; another point of analogy to the Jamaica sugar-bird. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Certhia Flaveola*: "It is black, below yellow; its eyebrows partly white; its outermost tail quills tipped with white."



END OF THE FIFTH VOLUME.

on
d;
ar-

is
at.